Demian Syndrome

volume 3 chapter 11a

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Mamiya Oki Presents

沖麻実也

デミアン症候群3

Demian Syndrome

CHARA COMICS

CHARA COMICS

デミアン症候群（シンドローム）

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「ずっと、おまえが好きだった――」

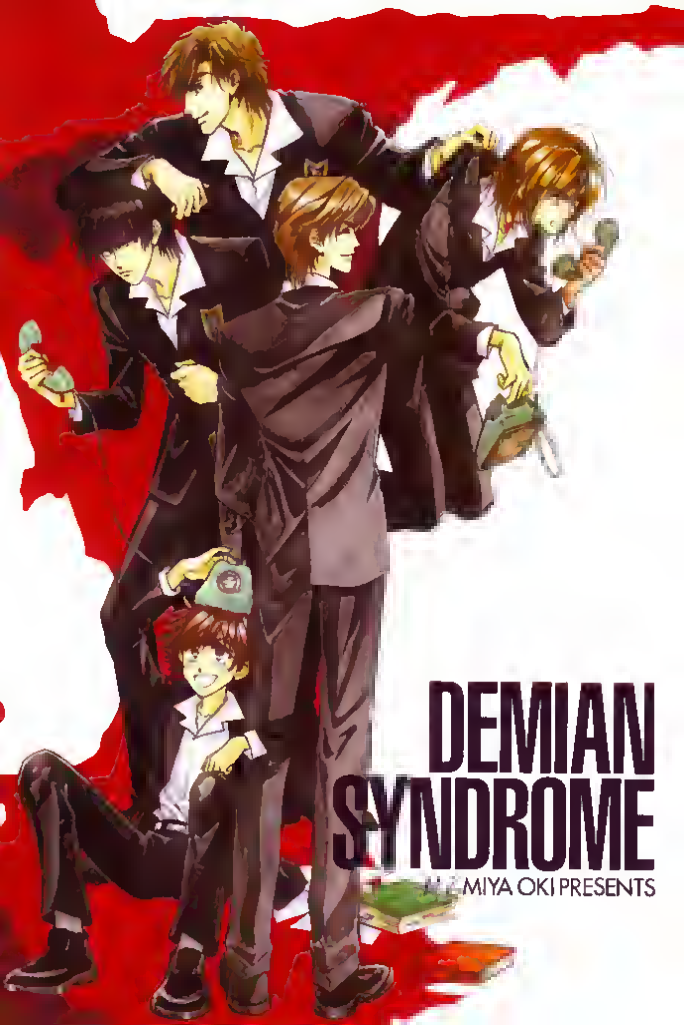
昔から抱いてきた城への想いを封印するため、城と距離を置こうとする東。けれどある日、子供のころ、眠っていた城へキスしたことを知られてしまう。「二人のことなのに、俺だけ知らないのはずるい！」主張する城にキレた東は、城を押さえつけキスしてきて…!?

CHARA COMICS

3

沖麻実也

徳間書店


DEMIAN
SYNDROME
MIYA OKI PRESENTS

Second Stage

#2 earnest wish •7
the first part

earnest wish •119
the latter part

Demian Syndrome 3

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AFTER THAT
AZUMA WAS VERY GENTLE WITH ME
AND I

Demian Syndrome
Second Stage
#2 earnest wish
the first part

PRESENTED • BY • MAMIYA • OKI

Demian Syndrome

I've finally found you
Patter
Patter
AZUMA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A WHILE—
HE'S DOOMED IF THEY FIND OUT!
SINCE HE FELL FROM THERE, THE VICE-DORM MANAGER FORBADE ANYONE FROM GOING UP THERE...
BUT HE ACTUALLY WENT OUT THERE AGAIN!?
Gah
THE SUMMIT OF OUR SCHOOL!?
HE'S ON THE ROOF!?
HAVE YOU SEEN TAKAYAMA?
point
EH?
THAT DOOR—?

HE SAYS HE NEEDS TO RECOVER.
COULD YOU NOT DISTURB HIM?
HUH?!
QUIET DOWN
KURACHI!
AND THE KEY TO THAT DOOR IS WITH THE DORM MANAGER!
HOW DID YOU...
MPH!
HE'S THE KIND OF GUY THAT HATES TO HAVE WEAKNESSES
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO DEVELOP A FEAR OF HEIGHTS BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED
I HAD TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO PREVENT HIM FROM CLIMBING UP HIMSELF ON HIS INJURED LEG
SO WHY DON'T YOU HELP HIM TOO?
That sounds like nothing he'd do...
WELL...
IF IT'S LIKE THAT...
He wants to keep it a secret? What can I...?

You're laughing?
Were you laughing at me?
Damn!
You're looking down on me now...
Damn!!
BLUSH
WHAT?!
NO...
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU WERE A NICE GUY
Ha...
BUT IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE HIM ALONE?
Yeah...
ER, NOT THAT I WANT TO DISRUPT HIM EITHER...
INDECISIVE
I just wanted to throw him something
Nah, it's not a big deal
BRM... IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT...
WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR HIM?
NAH...
NO, YOU ALWAYS HAVE... IT'S JUST THAT EVER SINCE HE TRANSFERRED
Saying it like that...
LATELY?
Flip
Flap
BUT REALLY...
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF HIM LATELY...
SO...
...EH? WHAT WAS I GOING TO SAY?
Umm...
I TOLD HIM IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS WHAT GUYS LOOK LIKE...
YUKI ALSO SAID THAT YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK NICER.
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
Tagging along...
Flip
Flap

It's really super cool!
Aw, come on
THERE'S A PROMO FOR "WAITING CRY", AND IT'S REALLY COOL!
COME TAKE A LOOK AND YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THEM
Not interested
Eh
NAH
I'm not
WHAT'S UP?
YOU WANNA COME?
WE'RE ALL GOING TO WATCH THE JCVYW VIDEO THAT MORI BOUGHT
AH!
KURACHI! ARE YOU FREE NOW?
SHOCK
Oh...
YOU WANNA COME, AZUMA?
I DOUBT YOU'RE INTERESTED, THOUGH...
but it's better to ask
WELL...
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
...Eh?
You really want to come?!
WAIT! I WANNA COME TOO!
GREAT!
LET'S GO!

Hi you guys got a minute?
YUP!
YOU'D NORMALLY PASS
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? WHY'RE YOU SUDDENLY SO KEEN ON GROUP ACTIVITIES?
YOU THINK SO?
YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD!
YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK WITH TAKAYAMA A WEEK AGO.
WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
I DIDN'T HEAR HIM SAY HE WAS STAYING OUT
DIDN'T THE DORM MANAGER EXPLAIN THAT HE MADE A MISTAKE?
Hmph!
WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT?
AND WHY WOULD HE WANT TO GO VISIT YOUR DAD WITH YOU?!
MY STEPFATHER WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE I WAS HANGING OUT WITH...
TOTAL BULL
Then you should have asked me along as well!!
KURACHI, YOU'RE REALLY LOUD!
DON'T COME WITH US IF YOU JUST WANT TO STIR UP TROUBLE!
WHAT THE HECK

I'M TRYING TO LEARN MORE...
SO YOU'RE INTERESTED TOO
OOSUGI, YOU'VE BROUGHT A CROWD!
That's great!
We're packed.
HEHE COULDN'T HELP IT ♡
YOU'RE TOO SERIOUS
HA HA
EH—
WELL THAT'S RARE
Really
YEAH, IT'S AZUMA
You know?
LISTEN, KOBAYASHI MIGHT'VE QUIT SCHOOL, BUT MIKAMI AND YOSHIDA ARE STILL STUDYING IN OUR UNIVERSITY...
Because they were still seniors in the spring.
EVEN I KNOW ABOUT THAT...
Hattori scowl
Right?
EVEN YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM, I BET
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ROCK AND ROLL BANDS DO YOU?
Hm?
SHUT UP
SHH!
BE QUIET!
BLAH
BLAH
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY, MOVE OVER, WILL YOU?
You're imagining!!!
I CAN'T SEE... DON'T SIT THERE!
HEY, HATTORI? YOU'RE DRUNK...
HA HA HA

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
SHUT UP!
WHERE IS HE?
HA HA
LOOK AT THAT!
IF HE'S SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU'D RUSH OVER HERE, WHY DON'T YOU PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HIM!?
HE'S FEELING REALLY UNEASY!
THAT'S A FEAT.
SWISH
This is the first time I've seen you raise your voice.
THAT KID GOT YOUR HEART TIED UP, OR WHAT?
Ya knows...
STOP IT!
WE'RE GOING ON STAGE SOON!
AH!
THUD
STUPID BRAT!
...!
PAH
...
BU
SMACK
!!

I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET... SO LISTEN GOOD!
CONGRATS! HE REALLY LIKED IT!
YOU'RE SO COMPLETELY MESSED UP THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSPIRED THAT SONG!
ENOUGH ALREADY...
DON'T TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT———
CUTTING THROUGH THE GREY FOG TO MEET AGAIN IN THE FUTURE!
IT'S TOO FAST, I HAVEN'T FIGURED ANYTHING OUT YET...
DON'T INVADE MY INNER SPACE!
AH!
IT'S REALLY COOL!
I am I...?
YOU'VE GOTTA THINK SO TOO, RIGHT?
What do you think?

YEAH.

THAT DAY...
RIDING ON THE BIKE BEHIND AZUMA
I FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT
Luckily my hands were tied tightly
WHEN I WOKE UP,
I WAS IN AN UNFAMILIAR ROOM.
WHERE AM I?
I...
SOMEONE'S T LKING?
My watch e mes taken
IT'S DARK ...
WHAT TIME IS IT?
WOBBLE
WHERE S AZUMA?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...
I'LL HELP YOU KEEP IT FROM HER.
THANK YOU.
IT'S OK. JUST BE CAREFUL. DON'T GET CAUGHT.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DESTROY MY BIKE.
YOU'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BIKE?
LOOKS LIKE I—
FOUND OUT AZUMA'S SECRET...
IN A WAY HE WOULDN'T LIKE...
click

WAS THAT THE WOMAN FROM BEFORE?
SHE'S COMPLETELY CHANGED
OH MY, I'M SO SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
EH?
A KIMONO...?
FLUMP
YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE FEVERISH
DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE?
HERE!
YOU SHOULD DRINK SOMETHING
Just take as much as you can
YOU'RE STILL FLUSHED? ARE YOU OKAY?
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU'D LIKE?
No
WHERE'S AZUMA?
HE WENT TO FETCH YOUR CRUTCH HE SAID IT WAS BETTER TO GET IT BEFORE DAWN
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME. WHY DON'T YOU REST SOME MORE?
Good!

BLUSH
YIKES! WHAT AM I DOING ..?
ERM
Oh!
WHAT'S UP?
SORRY!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN A PRETTY GIRL—
SO MY HAND JUST REACHED OUT—
smile
Oh my, how you're embarrassing me!
WHAT AN HONEST GUY, ♡
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IDIOT!

NO
HE REALLY DIDN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING
OH COME ON BE GOOD AND LIE DOWN!
IDIOT?
THIS ISN'T HIS RELATIVE'S PLACE, IS IT?
MAY... MAY I ASK WHERE I AM?
AND YOU?
IF YOU'RE ASKING IF WE'RE RELATED THE ANSWER IS NO
THEN YOU'RE HIS GIRLFRIEND?
TCH
YOU'RE BEING VAGUE
MY INSTINCTS ARE USUALLY RELIABLE
It's not anything to do with age
HE ISN'T ASHAMED TO ASK
That was direct
Could he have seen something?
Surely not
HA HA HA
IF YOU'RE ASKING IF WE'RE GOING OUT THE ANSWER IS NO
BESIDES, I'M MUCH OLDER THAN YOU GUYS
Does it seem like it?
WHAT?
WOULD THAT BOTHER YOU?

That jerk!
BUT THAT GUY HE NEVER WANTS TO TALK ABOUT GIRLS, AND HERE HE'S GOT A GIRL LIKE YOU.
HE'S ONE GOOD ACTOR
Of course
FROM A GUY'S STAND-POINT
I DON'T WANT TO LAG BEHIND HIM IN RELA-TIONSHIPS EITHER.
sat up in the end
Wow! He's really cute up close
serious
childish
I'M SAYING THAT THERE AREN'T MANY GOOD WOMEN LIKE YOU
This kinda sucks
THOUGH I BET I WIN BY VIRTUE OF NUM-BERS
Most he use to have a demure-clad beauty
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU WEREN'T HIS GIRL, I'D DEFI-NITELY TURN UP THE CHARM
I'm sure it look really great
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FLIRTING WITH ME NOW?
Ok!
SO HOW CHARMING ARE YOU NOW?
COULD YOU LET YOUR HAIR DOWN?
MAYBE 60%.
SQUEEEAL

HAHAHA
Hey! Big boy!♡
HEY, IS HE REALLY YOUR FRIEND?
He's such a sweetie!♡
HI, AZUMA THANKS
MAN, SHE'S REALLY FUN
Instant Best Friends
!
OH WELCOME BACK!♪
HA HA HA
Who's me?
They look like siblings
I KNEW IT...
TONK☆
YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS HER!
HOW'S YOUR FEVER?
BWP@
OKAY!♡
SEEYA, JO!♡
I'LL BRING YOU SOME BREAKFAST LATER.
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO HANG AROUND AKIO?
DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TO DO?
Hurry and go!
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A BIG DEAL IF I TAKE IT EASY ON A SUNDAY MORNING!
OH, YOU'RE NO FUN
There you go addressing me informally again

OH...
AZUMA, ABOUT THAT...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE...
I'M... REALLY SORRY...
I...
YOU IDIOT, YOU STILL HAVE ONE!
I'M NOT TAKING YOU BACK TO THE DORM UNTIL YOUR FEVER'S GONE.
I KNOW.
I BROUGHT YOU HERE OF MY OWN ACCORD
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL BAD
DON'T WORRY OVER LITTLE STUFF LIKE THAT NOW...
IT'S OKAY
JUST REST UP AND CONCENTRATE ON GETTING BETTER

I WONDER...
.....
COME ON, LET'S GO BACK, JO—
IF I'M STILL DREAMING?
LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER
I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST A WISHFUL DREAM OF MINE——————
HEY... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT'S UP?
JUST REST FOR NOW
DO YOU KNOW...
WHAT IT IS THAT I WANT?
BUT AZUMA'S STILL KIND EVEN AFTER I'VE OPENED MY EYES...
RIGHT NOW...

WHERE ARE WE?
How can I possibly sleep not knowing that?
DIDN'T AKIO TELL YOU?
SHE DIDN'T
SO YOU TELL ME!
We were just having a great time chatting!
REALLY?
Sorry.
THIS THIS PLACE HAS BEEN LIKE A HOME TO ME FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS
I'VE EVEN GOT MY OWN ROOM
Sort of
BUT AKIO SAID THIS WASN'T YOUR RELATIVE'S PLACE
So you did ask?
I TOLD EVERYONE I WAS STAYING AT MY GUARDIAN'S PLACE IN TOKYO
Official guardian that is
EVEN THOUGH I FEEL A LITTLE BAD ABOUT MY DAD. I'M STILL AN OUTSIDER IN THE AZUMA FAMILY
We call each other to stay in contact
THIS IS THE BEST FOR EVERYONE
AND IT'S LESS PROBLEMATIC, TOO
WAIT... YOU AND YOUR STEP-FATHER...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR REAL HOME? AND DURING THE HOLIDAYS? WHY
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY STEP-FATHER ISN'T THAT BAD
I ACTUALLY WENT TO MEET HIM YESTERDAY. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT IS MORE THAN I EXPECTED

YOU... RAN AWAY?
!?
TRUTHFULLY, I ONCE RAN AWAY FROM HOME IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
BECAUSE IT HAPPENED DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, THE SCHOOL WASN'T ALERTED.
I...
...BUT ISN'T YOUR FAMILY NADAKA? THEY ARE! Right?
A LOT HAS HAPPENED ON MY END TOO.
...TO CUT A LONG STORY SHORT, I GOT TO KNOW THIS ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.
THIS PLACE IS HIS
But it's still nothing compared to yo...
WE REALLY HIT IT OFF... OR MAYTE HE JUST LIKED ME...
I GUESS IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD, THOUGH.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK THAT'S HOW IT IS
AKIO IS HIS SECRETARY.
SHE'S BEEN STAYING HERE TO MANAGE THINGS EVER SINCE THE OLD MAN DIED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "A LITTLE"? AREN'T YOU OVERSIMPLIFYING IT?
ALL THAT...
It's really inside you!

I HELP OUT TOO...
AND I STILL STAY HERE.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE LATER.
IT'LL JUST TIRE YOU OUT IF I GO INTO DETAILS.
BESIDES...
I HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT.
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND
LET ME REST SOME OKAY?
...
FUMP...
I
IDIOT!
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD TOO!
KEEP IT DOWN
I'M JUST CONCERNED!
COME ON, GET UNDER THE BLANKET!
opposite direction
GEEZ

SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN USED TO HIS SLEEPING FACE OVER THESE PAST FEW MONTHS...
BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US. HAVE I BEEN TOO SELFISH?
IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I REALIZE HOW LONG WE'VE REALLY BEEN APART.
WHAT IF WE HAD REMAINED TOGETHER?
IF I...

JUST HOW MUCH
DO I REALLY MEAN TO YOU NOW?
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WITHOUT HAVING THE SLIGHTEST CLUE
HE'S PROBABLY NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK HE IS
I JUST KEEP MAKING MISTAKES
CREAK
TAKAYAMA!
SLAM
THAT'S WHY I
THAT'S ENOUGH.
IT'S COLD OUT COME ON, LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOM.

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SLOW THINGS DOWN AND KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM YOU...
...BUT YOU'VE CHANGED.
I TOLD KURACHI THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO OVERCOME YOUR FEAR OF HEIGHTS.
SO REMEMBER NOT TO BLOW YOUR COVER.
AND THAT
I JUST WANTED A SMOKE,
BUT THAT WAS QUICK THINKING ON YOUR PART
YOU'D MAKE A GREAT CON-MAN.

JO...
YOU FORGOT THIS
You'll fall without it
AZUMA IS VERY KIND...
AND I...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

RUSH!
RUSH!

ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT YOU KNOWING YOUR OWN BODY BEST ...
YOU MORON!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO RASH...
YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF IF I'M NOT AROUND TO LOOK AFTER YOU!
I...
!

CLOSED AND QUIET
NOW AND ALWAYS
WITHOUT REALIZING
WHEN IT STARTED...
LIKED
YOU
IF YOU
KNEW WHAT
I REALLY
THOUGHT...
I'M SURE
YOU'D BE
ANGRY
BUT I'VE
ALWAYS
THE
FEELINGS
THAT ARE
HIDDEN DEEP
INSIDE...
IT'S
ALMOST
DRIVING ME
INSANE...
BUT
I'M SURE
YOU DON'T
KNOW
THAT.

FOR THE LONGEST TIME....
I COULDN'T TELL IF I LOVED YOU OR HATED YOU...
BUT....
ONE THING'S FOR SURE
NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OF ME LOVING YOU
IF ONLY YOU'D CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM ME SOONER...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, JO...
THAT'S WHY I RESTRAINED MYSELF

PRESENTED • BY • MAMIYA • OP

Demian Syndrome

Jouhoku Scanlations

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Jouhoku Scanlations

Demian Syndrome

by Mamiya Oki

Volume 3 Chapter 11b

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Demian Syndrome

SWEEP
SWEEP
In the middle of cleaning
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR WINTER BREAK?
ARE YOU GOING TO SEE YOUR FATHER?
AWESOME~~ YOU GOING OVERSEAS? WHERE WAS HE AGAIN..
Was it china?? Or the US again?
SWEEP
OR IS HE COMING TO JAPAN?
WELL...
I DUNNO YET
EH?!
IT'S NOT AS IF THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO...
Or some distant relatives...
IF MY GRANDMA WAS STILL ALIVE, I PROBABLY COULD'VE STAYED WITH HER.
HAHAHA
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO LEAVE JAPAN,
ha ha ha
ALTHOUGH MY FRIENDS IN AMERICA INVITED ME TO COME...
NOW I'M STARTING TO GET ANNOYED...
My ten girlfriends and you know...
WHAAAT?
HOW COME? EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE HOLIDAYS?
IT CAN'T BE THAT YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO...
What a useless place
Aah~ eh
WHAT SHOULD I DO, I WONDER?
IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO STAY IN THE DORMS IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER

Rehabilitation 3
Aren't I great?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN USING YOUR CRUTCH MUCH LATELY, SO I FORGOT
ONLY AROUND SCHOOL AND IN THE DORMS
I STILL NEED A CRUTCH FOR OUTSIDE OF THAT
BUT SERIOUSLY, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
SOMETHING CAN STILL BE ARRANGED EVEN LAST MINUTE YOU KNOW
IT'LL BE BAD IF YOU DON'T BOOK YOUR TICKET SOON, WON'T IT?
BUT TO BE HONEST, MY LEG'S STILL LIKE THIS
SO I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GO ALL THE WAY HOME
AH, I SEE
Shut up!
I'LL GO BACK TO BEING FAST AS A HARE SOON,
JUST WAIT
Shuke up to you!
You bastard!
hahaha
ALTHOUGH NOW YOU'RE SLOWER THAN A TORTOISE
SUCH A PITY ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU USED TO BE AS FAST AS ME
Yeah, you're great, great!
OH YEAH, RIGHT HOPEFULLY KASAHARA WILL COME SOON WHAT'S HE DOING ANYWAY?
Er?
WILL WE FINISH ON TIME THE WAY WE'RE GOING?
It's almost the hall.
SWEEP
SWEEP
HE WENT TO LOOK FOR A CART AND SOME BASKETS
da—
DAY AFTER DAY, THERE'S NO END TO IT NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE SWEEP!
IT'S ALREADY DECEMBER AND THE LEAVES ARE STILL FALLING?
Sh
But really—
SWEEP
SWEEP
WAIT A MINUTE...
Humph.
DID HE JUST SAY "GO BACK HOME" TO THE WISP
DIDN'T TAKAHAMA "COME BACK HOME" TO JAPAN?
Hmm.

Ah!!
AZUMA!?
WHAT, YOU WANNA HELP US?
WE'VE ALREADY DONE THE MAIN GATE.
I thought as much that you two were slow.
IT'S ALREADY SUNSET, WHY ARE YOU TAKING SO LONG?
YOU GUYS, MOVE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR MOUTHS!
AND...
!?
TAKAYAMA!
IT'S YOURS
PUT IT ON
..!

HEY, ISN'T THAT TOO SAD!?
THIS FLOWER OF A HIGH SCHOOL BOY HAS—
THAT'S REALITY.
SWEEP
SWISH
Um six plus three years
SWISH
KURACHI, TRY TO SWEEP MORE EVENLY.
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN WIELDING A BROOM NOW?
SWISH
HEY...
SWEEP
SWEEP
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... IT HAS BECOME COLDER.
I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE MOVING YOU DON'T NOTICE IT.
OH.
Typical.
Here, I'll do it for you ♡
It's because it's cold.
There, there.
...!
IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT? HOW ABOUT WEARING IT, SINCE HE BROUGHT IT HERE FOR YOU AND ALL?
DON'T DO SUCH UNNECESSARY...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
AZUMA! WHAT IS THIS? THIS...
DON'T YOU KNOW JUST BY LOOKING?
QUIT STANDING AROUND AND START WORKING IF YOU CAN'T, THEN JUST GO INSIDE.
SWISH
SWISH
IT'S FINE, I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
Ah, quit it!
SWISH
What's that—? Don't be so shy ♡
Who's shy!?
SAY,
DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
The three of us sweeping together.

IT'S LIKE WE'VE GONE BACK TO HOW IT USED TO BE
BACK IN PRIMARY SCHOOL
So nostalgic.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE FOOLING AROUND. DON'T PUT ME WITH YOU.
WHAT RUBBISH.
ME AND TAKAYAMA FOOLING AROUND...
AZUMA ABOVE IT ALL...
Nothing's changed, has it. ♪
AT THE TIME, I JUST THOUGHT AZUMA WAS SLOW.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, AZUMA WAS COVERING YOU.
Haha, sorry.
People with asthma are sensitive to dust
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU WERE RAVING AND I THREW THAT MOUNTAIN OF GARBAGE AT YOU...
EVEN THOUGH I AIMED AT TAKAYAMA, SOMEHOW I HIT AZUMA.
BUT I REMEMBER THAT WE USED TO QUARREL A LOT, BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS HAD SUCH A SHORT FUSE, TAKAYAMA.
Ugh!
Hey, keep on sweeping.
How mean!
Ah! Is that how it was?

FROM WAY BACK YOU'VE BEEN KIND TO TAKAYAMA-
!!
cough
flutter
rustle
peh!
YOU
SHUT UP!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW, STUPID!!?
There was even a pebble in there
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
peh peh
WHAT!?
YOU BASTARD, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!? STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHAT ABOUT THE CLEANING?
Hun!?
Ha!
WON'T THE KI——ND AZUMA-SENSEI DO MY WORK THREE TIMES OVER?
DO WHAT YOU WANT
storms off
WAI-...!
AZUMA, SAY SOMETHING!
..WHAT'S UP WITH HIM!?
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
..MOVE YOUR HANDS!
IF WE DON'T FINISH ON TIME, I'M GOING BACK ANYWAY
Is that all you can say!?
For now I'll do the work three times over for him

Kasahara, you're hated!
Eeee?!
HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS CATCHING COLD AGAIN THE THREE OF US SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO FINISH OFF...
WHAT'S WRONG? WASN'T THAT TAKAYAMA OVER THERE JUST BEFORE?
Geez!
What the hell is this!?
He was hurt in the way anyway
Pass me a basket.
EH?
Azuma, when did you come-
SWEEP
SWEEP
COUGH
TCH
Crunch
TCH
HE—
twip

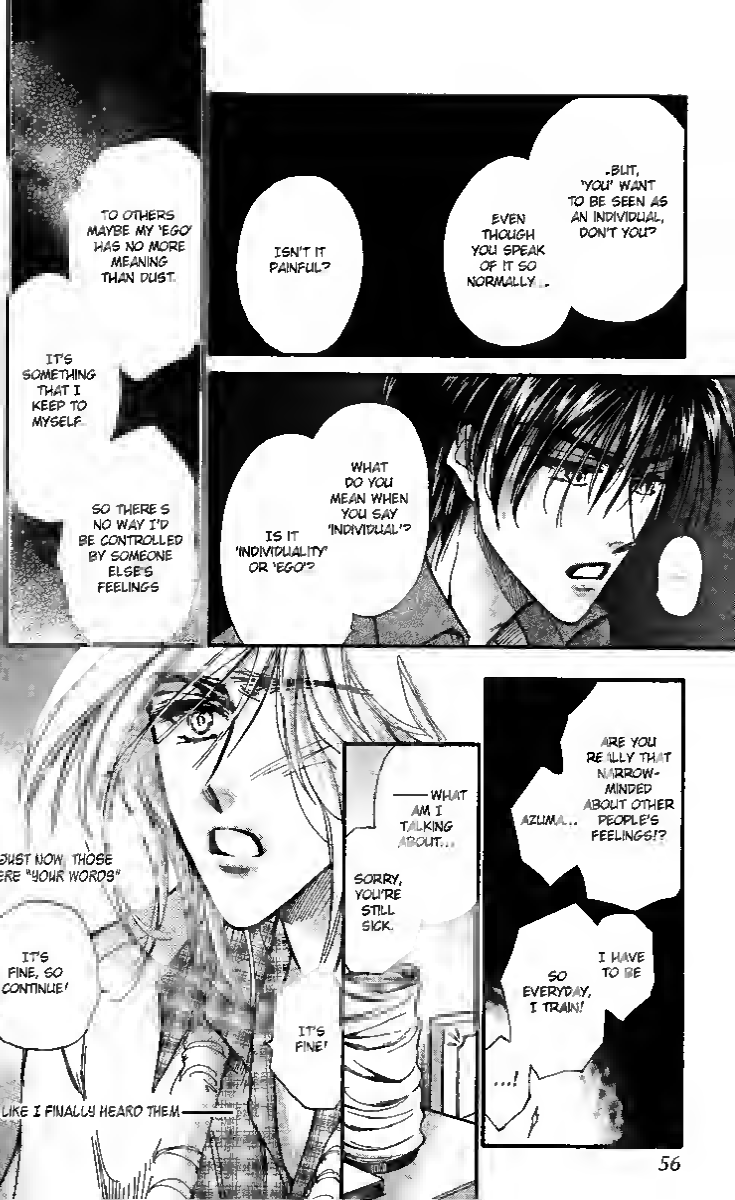
AZUMA
AT FIRST GLANCE, HE SEEMS EXPRESSIONLESS AND ANTISOCIAL, BUT IF YOU LOOK CLOSER, HE'S A NICE GUY
IF YOU PAY ATTENTION, YOU'LL NOTICE
"FROM LONG AGO——"
BUT THAT'S...
HE ONLY BEHAVES LIKE THAT TOWARDS.....
SO,
YOUR NAME IS JOUICHIRO?

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I'LL TURN 16 SOON,
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S STILL PRETTY YOUNG, RIGHT.
SINCE YOU'RE TAKASHI-KUN'S FRIEND, I THOUGHT YOU WERE OLDER
ho ho ho
This house is unbelievable.
WHAT A REFINED OLD LADY
AH, THE JOYS OF YOUTH
YOU WERE ABLE TO BECOME FRIENDS REGARDLESS OF THE AGE DIFFERENCE
EH?
!
HE'S MY KOUHAI FROM SCHOOL
SOMETIMES I LOOK OVER HIS HOMEWORK
OH, IS THAT SO?
glance

THANKS, TAKAYAMA.
...YOU SAVED ME.
JUST AS EXPECTED.
THANKS TO HIM, MY GRADES HAVE IMPPROVED
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL? I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT ♡
YOSH!
smile ♡
Smile Smile ♡
HE'S REALLY GOOD AT TEACHING TOO!
YEAH! HE ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF ME
AH, REALLY?
smile
Smile Smile
Yeah.
REALLY GOOD.
Was that okay?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU TOLD ME TO FOLLOW YOUR LEAD WHATEVER HAPPENS
...WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON HERE?
PERHAPS SHE HAS ALZHEIMER'S?
NO, HER MEMORIES ARE JUST A BIT CONFUSED
THANKS FOR HUMOURING HER
AS EXPECTED. YOU'RE QUICK WITH YOUR TONGUE
SEEMS?
IN THE BEGINNING IT WAS DIFFERENT
IN SHORT, IT SEEMS I'VE BECOME HER GRAND-CHILD
TO KIMI-SAN, I'M 'TAKASHI'- THE CHILD OF THE SON WHO LEFT THIS HOUSE A LONG TIME AGO

And her son?
WHAT ABOUT HER REAL GRAND-CHILDREN?
WHO KNOWS.
MOST LIKELY HER GRAND-CHILDREN ARE JUST A WISH.
HER SON HAS BEEN GONE FOR AROUND 30 YEARS.
SHE'S HOLDING IT TOGETHER... I THINK.
SO WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING CONTRARY TO WHAT SHE THINKS. IT WILL CONFUSE HER.
OTHER-WISE SHE'S DOING FINE.
THE BALANCE SHE'S REACHED IS BECAUSE I, HER 'GRANDCHILD' WAS HERE. THAT'S WHY SHE COULD TAKE HER HUSBAND'S DEATH THE RIGHT WAY.
A WISH...?
THEN AREN'T YOU JUST A SUBSTITUTE?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'ALRIGHT'?
TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU KNOWN AS 'YOU?'
DOES SHE SEE YOU AS 'YOU',
OR AS A COMP-LETELY DIFFERENT PERSON?
WELL,
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT,
I MEAN...

IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
BUT YOU ALWAYS FIND TIME TO PHONE HER.
YOU ALSO COME BACK AND FORTH FROM HERE...
TO THE POINT THAT YOU SAY THIS IS LIKE YOUR OWN HOUSE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY?
YOU MEAN, WHERE IS MY "IDENTITY" IN THIS EXISTENCE?
EXACTLY!
IT WAS HER HUSBAND'S LAST REQUEST.
THAT THINGS SHOULD BE JUST AS SHE WISHED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...
A PERSON CONSUMED WITH ESTABLISHING HIS OWN SELF
TO ME IT WAS STRANGE,
THAT'S A MEANINGLESS QUESTION.
SHE'S HAPPY WHEN I AM HERE.
AND THAT MAKES ME HAPPY TOO.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
BECAUSE AS FAR AS I KNEW,
AZUMA WAS, MORE THAN ANYMORE ELSE,


TO OTHERS MAYBE MY 'EGO' HAS NO MORE MEANING THAN DUST.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT I KEEP TO MYSELF.
SO THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S FEELINGS
ISN'T IT PAINFUL?
EVEN THOUGH YOU SPEAK OF IT SO NORMALLY...
..BUT, 'YOU' WANT TO BE SEEN AS AN INDIVIDUAL, DON'T YOU?
IS IT 'INDIVIDUALITY' OR 'EGO'?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY 'INDIVIDUAL'?
ARE YOU REALLY THAT NARROW-MINDED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!?
AZUMA...
I HAVE TO BE SO EVERYDAY, I TRAIN!
...!
——WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT...
SORRY, YOU'RE STILL SICK.
IT'S FINE!
JUST NOW, THOSE WERE "YOUR WORDS"
IT'S FINE, SO CONTINUE!
I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY HEARD THEM

HIS SELF-CONSCIOUS AND FORCED SMILE BROUGHT ME BACK TO REALITY.
TO AZUMA..
I WANT TO HEAR MORE LET'S TALK MORE, ABOUT ANYTHING
AS LONG AS IT'S ABOUT YOU
AZUMA.
LIKE WE USED TO LONG AGO.
...YOU'RE SO WEIRD.
DO YOU FIND THIS SORT OF CONVER-SATION FUN?
OUR CHILDHOOD DAYS WHEN WE COULD TALK HAPPILY TOGETHER ENDED LONG AGO.

Completely fine? Idiot!
I'll be completely fine!
Yes!
IF I'D LEFT YOU OUT THERE YESTERDAY, YOU WOULD'VE EITHER ENDED UP IN A HOSPITAL OR A POLICE STATION
I'LL BE ALRIGHT FOR JUST THAT MUCH
WELL, THANK GOODNESS ANYWAY
I'M SORRY I CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE

I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID TO PUT AN END TO THE FRIENDSHIP GAME

... DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
TAKASHI ASKED IF HE COULD BRING A FRIEND WITH HIM, AND THEN HE LITERALLY CARRIED YOU IN...
I HAVE TO SAY, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED...
I'm so sorry
I thought you'd had a serious accident...

JUST AS I THOUGHT...
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS HERE...
YEAH... ACTUALLY I CAN ONLY REMEMBER WHEN WE STOPPED AT A COUPLE OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS DURING THE DRIVE...
I don't remember anything else...

?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO IF SHE GOT UPSET WHEN SHE NOTICED YOU WERE A BOY
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE LENGTH OF HIS HAIR
IT SEEMS TO BE FINE! SHE EVEN SAID 'HE'
Ah, thank goodness.
BY THE WAY, MADAME SAID 'ISN'T JOU-KUN A NICE BOY' SHE SEEMED TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD
YOU REALLY HELPED US THANK YOU
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE THAT HE SLEPT LIKE A LOG AGAINST MY BACK
EVEN THOUGH I WAS DRIVING LIKE CRAZY, HE JUST KEPT ON SLEEPING WITHOUT A CARE
HOW DANGEROUS! FOR A WHILE, YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO USE THE BIKE!!
Get your driving license
SORRY...
YOU KNOW, SHE'S WAITING FOR "TAKASHI-KUN" TO BRING A BRIDE HOME TO THE HIRAJIMA HOUSEHOLD
BUT, WHEN THE TIME COMES SHE'LL DEFINITELY SULK
I THINK SO TOO
It is troubling.
It's troubling
UM, THEN.
ARE THE TWO OF YOU A SECRET?
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS? THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY-
AH!
Aaah, you revealed it yourself.
Nya ha ha
JUST AS I THOUGHT. YOU TWO REALLY ARE TOGETHER! ISN'T THAT GREAT? ♡ DON'T BE SHY
By the way Ichiro, did you do it, Girls? Is it true Senior Hajime stayed with you? Senior Hajime and I was in Junior High!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING YOU KNOW.

Is it even legal?
JOU-KUN DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS OKAY~~~?
Yeeees.
IT'S FINE!
If was about the same for me anyway (laugh)
Ah really? (laugh)
THANK YOU ♡
AS THANKS I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD
Argh here they go again, these two
YOU KNOW, THIS BOY, THE FIRST TIME WE KISSED, HE SAID THAT THAT WAS HIS FIRST TIME WITH A WOMAN...
EH? IS THAT A 'WOMAN OTHER THAN YOUR MOTHER?'
Um...
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE IT HAD A PRETTY DEEP MEANING. YOU KNOW!? ALTHOUGH IN THE END WE GOT CARRIED AWAY JUST LIKE THAT
Is that so?
AZUMA...!?
BUT BECAUSE HE SAID HE WAS IN AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL WITH A BOYS' DORMITORY, FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D...
Huh?
Um...
ACTUALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT ♡
Oh my! What sort of boy?
THERE'S A STUDENT FROM THE LOWER CLASSES WHO REA—LLY LIKES HIM!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IN THE PAST BUT,
Hmm?
WHAT'S THE PERSON IN QUESTION S...YING?
...
IT WAS YOU TAKAYAMA

Idiot, what would
IT WASN'T THAT SORT OF KISS.
Then what!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT, DID WE REALLY DO ANYTHING!?
WHEN!?
YOU'RE NOT COUNTING A KISS ON THE CHEEK OR ON A WOUND OR SOMETHING?
EH?
Oh shut up!
Shrug
Wha...
YOU ATTACKED ME WHEN I WAS ASLEEP!?
OF COURSE YOU DON'T, YOU WERE FAST ASLEEP.
Even when I pinched your nose you didn't wake up.
AZUMA!?
I don't know anything about it
HOW UNFAIR!!
!!
You jerk!
Introvert
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!
AND THEN YOU GO AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO GREAT.
Tweet
YOU KNOW, YOU!!
Pet!
YOU SHOULD PLAY MORE FAIRLY YOU KNOW——
He He
Two on? a spray!!
AH HA HA
I agree!!
Isn't it? Waiii!!
THANK YOU!
It's so boring
ATTACKING A PERSON WHILE THEY SLEEP IS UNFAIR.
JOU-KUN HAS MY VOTE~~~

click
Because his things are in the foyer
TAKA-SHI!!
A MAN'S HYSTERIA IS A DISGRACE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES
JOJI!!
IF YOU'RE THIS ENERGETIC, THEN YOU'RE FINE ALREADY
HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED!!
AKIO! WHERE ARE HIS CLOTHES!?
Oh my.
HE'S JEALOUS OF US, WHAT A CHILD
WAS WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE FOR REAL?
OR WAS IT A JOKE?
HEY,
IT WAS AN IRREGULARITY
THERE'S NO NEED TO COUNT IT.
It's passed the use by anyway

AT THAT TIME,
YOU WERE LYING DOWN JUST LIKE THIS
thump
P
THEN, SHALL WE SETTLE THE SCORE NOW?
EH?
... I DON'T LIKE IT THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT ONLY I DON'T KNOW ABOUT, EVEN THOUGH BOTH OF US WERE INVOLVED
AND YOU KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW AS WELL...
WELL IT'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE NOW AND AGAIN BUT YOU KNOW
what a charade
mutter
Even if you say it was a long time ago, when was it exactly?
DON'T JUST DECIDE THINGS YOURSELF LIKE THAT
Looks too careless.
ATTACKING SOMEONE IN THEIR SLEEP IS COMPLETELY ONE-SIDED.
That's dirty trick.
Then,
...would certainly--
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED ME TO DO? IF YOU HAD WOKEN UP, IT WOULD'VE BEEN OK...Y?
ANYWAY
Aaaah, what the hell are we talking about?
I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT IF IT WAS IN THE DORMS
BECAUSE THERE ARE NO BEDS THERE LIKE THIS
...EH?
W-WAIT...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THEN PUSH ME OFF YOUR-SELF
IS THAT SO?
WELL THAT'S TOO BAD
!
...!
I CAN'T MOVE...
you bastard, my leg!
!
...!
NN..
...
N
...YOU TOO...
Hm, you're pretty good (cm read)
YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE GIRLS CRY JUST FOR FUN
DID YOU PRACTISE WITH ALL TEN OF YOUR GIRL-FRIENDS?
I thought I was going to lose
interesting technique

THE REASON?
WHY WE WERE SETTLING THINGS?
But, that's not the point!!
I've gotten all confused
BUT WHY?
WHY ALL OF SUDDEN...
I JUST... KISSED AZUMA?
AND WE CAME OUT ABOUT EVEN IN TECHNIQUE
P-DMP
P-DMP
AN-
AND SO...
T-THIS GUY...
Brush
Seriously
IT WAS SO CUTE THAT I HAD TO LAUGH
THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS BECAUSE YOU SAID IT WAS UNFAIR
ISN'T IT JUST BECAUSE HE'S IN HIS OWN TERRITORY,
THAT HIS PERSONALITY'S SO DIFFERENT?
Heh
WHETHER SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS EXPERIENCED OR IN-EXPERIENCED,
I REALLY CAN'T TELL
YOU BAS-TARD...
Erk
DO YOU PUSH HER DOWN THIS WAY TOO?
"HER?"
CAN YOU POSSIBLY BE TALKING ABOUT AKIO?

SHIBA-RYOUCHOU...
DESPITE HOW SHE LOOKS, SHE'S STRONG, THAT WOMAN!
IF I TRIED TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HER, I'D BE SENT FLYING ACROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM.
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF HER TOO.
Hehe. Cor res!
Ah ha ha!
IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE, THAT'S TOO MUCH EVEN AS A JOKE!
HER!?
CERTAIN-LY, SHE'S A FAIR BIT OLDER BUT
EVEN IF YOU REMOVED THAT DIFFERENCE, SHE'S STRONG.
BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.
Looks over.
I STILL HAVE A WAY TO GO.

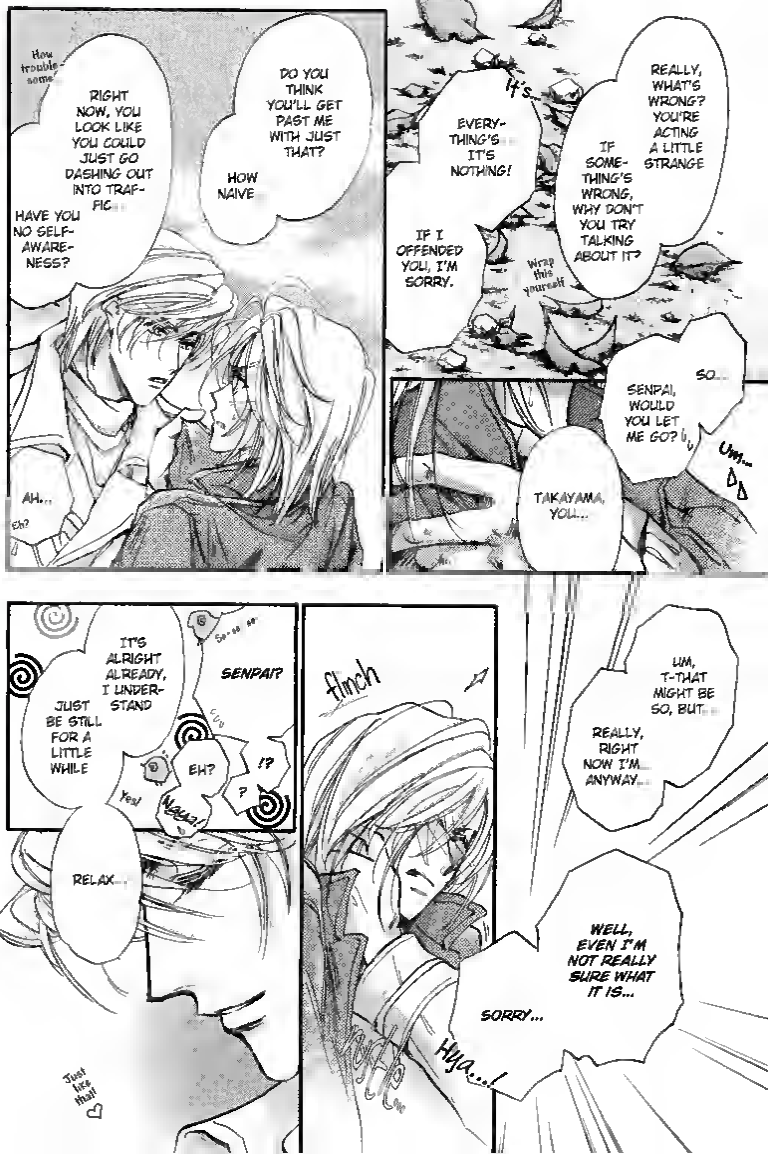
WHAT'S THAT?
AZUMA'S SMILING
SHE EVEN WEARS KIMONO
I THOUGHT SHE WAS LIKE ONE OF THOSE RARE YAMATO NADESHIKO-TYPES.
IS SHE REALLY THAT STRONG?
That's unexpected
Ha!
THAT'S JUST A DISGUISE
SO BRIGHTLY
FOR REAL?
I WAS THINKING OF SEDUCING HER AWAY IN SECRET
Sposé I can't
'HIS WALLS ARE HIGH YOU KNOW'
AND I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A PLACE
WHERE HE HAD NO WALLS...
AND...
WELL MAYBE YOU'RE HER TYPE
SHE LIKES PRETTY BOYS QUITE A BIT.
IS THAT SO?
So I'll succeed because of my looks?

NOW I'M AWARE OF
JUST WHAT MY POSITION IS
IT WAS BETTER THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE,
BUT I...
WHAT I WISHED FOR WAS
BAM!
Stagger
UWA...!
Whoa
OW!!
Shit!
Beam

TASUKU-SENPAI
laugh
LOOK HERE. WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT BAD BEHAVIOUR!
Hi
Geh! Senpai!
AH
BLUSH
YOU'RE IN QUITE A TEMPER, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT'S WRONG?
It's been a while

TASUKU-SENPAI, ...U-UM...
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SO BAD-TEMPERED.
THAT IS...
SORRY! I WAS JUST WANDERING AROUND.
EH?
CONGRATU-LATIONS
Eh?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU DON'T NEED CRUTCHES ANYMORE, ISN'T IT?
OH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...BUT I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF REHABILI-TATION.
HM?
I SEE. WORK HARD, AND MAKE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR MUSCLES.
AFTER ALL, IT'LL BE COLD THIS WINTER...

I'D WONDERED WHAT THAT WAS...
EH?
UWA!
YOU'RE DRAGGING YOUR SCARF BEHIND YOU.
SHALL I TIE IT BACK ON FOR YOU?
PAT
PAT
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUCH A NICE IVORY...
Just the sort I like! ♡
SORRY
For making you pick it up
EH?
AH...
LOOK, I GOT ALL THE DIRT OFF IT
You don't really mind do you?
DON'T
EH?
I DON'T NEED IT
SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU SENPAI
TAKAYAMA?
SORRY, IT WAS DROPPED ON THE GROUND...
BUT IF YOU'RE ALRIGHT WITH THAT, THEN TAKE IT!
YOU DON'T NEED IT, YOU SAY...
Uu
ACCEPT IT AS AN APOLOGY FOR BUMPING INTO YOU
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, THEN JUST THROW IT AWAY
SO...
See you later
WAIT A MINUTE!
You idiot!
grab


How troublesome
RIGHT NOW, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD JUST GO DASHING OUT INTO TRAFFIC...
HAVE YOU NO SELF-AWARENESS?
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET PAST ME WITH JUST THAT?
HOW NAIVE
AH...
Eh?
It's...
EVERYTHING'S IT'S NOTHING!
IF I OFFENDED YOU, I'M SORRY.
REALLY, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE
IF SOMETHING'S WRONG, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING ABOUT IT?
Wrap this yourself
SO...
SENPAI, WOULD YOU LET ME GO?
Um...
TAKAYAMA, YOU...
IT'S ALRIGHT ALREADY, I UNDERSTAND
JUST BE STILL FOR A LITTLE WHILE
SENPAI?
So-so
Cute
Eh?
!?
?
Yes!
Nuuu!
RELAX...
flinch
UM, T-THAT MIGHT BE SO, BUT...
REALLY, RIGHT NOW I'M... ANYWAY...
WELL, EVEN I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT IT IS...
SORRY...
Hya...!
Just like that!

ARE YOU THE TYPE THAT HATES TO BE TOUCHED ON THE NECK? OR ARE YOU FINE WITH IT?
Oh my, you seem to be used to shiatsu massages
AT TIMES WHEN YOU FEEL FIT TO BURST, IF YOU TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND RELAX THE AREA AROUND HERE, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT
SEE? DON'T STRAIN AGAINST IT
N...
THIS PRESSURE POINT IS CALLED THE "FUUCHI"*
Below the neck
*fuuchi = wind pool
WELL, IT FEELS GOOD DOESN'T IT?
Uwa
YES
WELL, MORE BECAUSE, SENPAI, YOUR HANDS ARE WARM
Yeah...
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE HEAT PADS IN MY POCKET.
I hate the cold
It surprised me.
Hahaha!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU TOUCH A CAT LIKE THIS, NO MATTER WHAT KIND, IT'LL CALM DOWN ♡
AM I A CAT!?
Aren't you?
Gu—
YOU SEEM A LITTLE MORE LIKE YOURSELF, FINALLY
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN A LITTLE?
Dark
YO—
TASUKU! WHAT, YOU A TRAVELLING HEALER NOW?
!

BLUSH
Aaaaaah!
He's wobbling around everywhere. Don't fall!
HE GOT AWAY.
CHOOSE YOUR GROUND BETTER...
HE LOOKED SO PITIFUL, THAT TAKAYAMA
Is it really a problem of location?
...YOU GET SIDE-TRACKED AT ODD PLACES TOO, DON'T YOU?
LIM!
WE WERE GOING TO RELOCATE FROM HERE, YOU KNOW?
WELL, PLEASE EXCUSE ME THEN!
You're right next to the main gate
WHAT THE HELL YOU SAYING? ANYWAY, THIS IS A PUBLIC HIGHWAY!
YOU'RE ATTRACTING ATTENTION
Tch!
SHUT UP CHIBA
Quite a bit
shock
HEY, DOESN'T HE SEEM STRANGELY OFF-BALANCED?
I wasn't really joking
EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT A CHILD, HE ACTS LIKE A KID OR SOME-THING...
I can't say what exactly...
Don't joke around
NOT AT ALL
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SO YOU LIKE CUTIES AS WELL?
WELL, I CAN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO MEDDLE WITH HIM, BUT.
Really?
Our teacher's not quite all there.
By the way, we're friends with the lab assistant. Our teacher's nothing like her.

SPEAKING OF THAT...
I REALLY JUST WANTED TO TALK TO SOMEONE AND I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO TASUKU-SENPAI...
THAT DAY, I
WIND POOL? PRESSURE POINTS? I WONDER IF IT REALLY WORKS...
Jeez!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY.
MAYBE, IF I HAD SEEN HIM THAT TIME
——AND THEN, IF I HADN'T MET KOBAYASHI KATSUYA AND GONE TO THAT LIVE HOUSE
THEN...
grimace
——
...!
I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING.
IT'S ABSOLUTELY BETTER THAN NOT KNOWING ANYTHING.
BECAUSE AT LEAST NOW I KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF AZUMA'S SECOND HOME

I CAN DIE ANYTIME
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS
YOU STILL HAVE TO LIVE A LONG TIME FOR ME
IS THAT SO
THAT IS SO
I'LL STAY WITH HER UNTIL THE END.
BUT HONESTLY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? THINGS CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS SURELY
SHE REALLY LOVES YOU, DOESN'T SHE?
. IT KIND OF FELT LIKE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR HER TO ADOPT YOU LIKE THAT
.....
I SHOULD THINK THAT THIS IS PROGRESS
BUT
THANK GOODNESS THAT YOU CAME
THIS WAY, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE HOUSE OF HIRAJIMA
HEH HEH

AFTER ALL, IT'S SO SAD...
WAS IT MY IMAGINATION,
THAT THERE WAS SOME HIDDEN MEANING TO HIS WORDS?
...AFTER ALL, IT'S SO SAD.
HE FELL FROM THAT NEST...
The one on the steel frame above
So mean!
THERE'S A MARK FROM WHERE SOMEONE STEPPED ON HIM, HOW MEAN
...WE CAN'T SAVE IT
His neck is already
...SHOULD WE TELL THE STATION ATTENDANT?
EVEN IF WE DO, THEY'LL JUST PUT IT IN THE TRASH
...YEAH
Bzzt
IT CAN'T BE HELPED I'LL WRAP HIM UP IN MY HANDKERCHIEF AND TAKE HIM HOME WITH
...BUT JOU
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?
Since your grandma's been hospitalized
...an is now departing from—

FROM LONG AGO,
HE WAS ALWAYS KIND
AFTER ALL,
IT'S SO SAD
EH?
BUT YOU
IS IT OKAY?
YEAH
ARE YOU
REALLY
OKAY WITH
IT?
...FINE,
I'LL
TAKE IT
That's...
Eh?
I shouldn't?
IF I PUT
HIM IN MY
BAG, NO
ONE WILL
KNOW
IT'S
FINE
I WON'T
THROW
IT AWAY
EITHER
IF IT
REALLY
DOES
DIE,
I'LL
MAKE
SURE IT
GETS A
PROPER
BURIAL,
SO DON'T
WORRY
BUT EVEN THOUGH HE REALLY...
...HATED BIRDS AND SMALL ANIMALS...
HE TOOK IT WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH...
"AFTER ALL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED."

*鬼が出るか蛇が出るか Seems to be some sort of proverb, meaning that it is difficult to find a way to good fortune. (前途の吉兆が図りにくいことをいう Ganwa JPF-48001 or that there's no telling what trouble might be stirred up (http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/tanakaoorpo.html)

"TARGET CONFIRMED WILL A DEMON COME OUT, OR WILL A SNAKE COME OUT?" FOR THE MEANTIME UNTIL YOUR REPORT."
WHAT THE HELL AKIO? BUDDHA BECAME A SNAKE?
Well, that actually happened, but...
HERE WE GO... HUH

chatter
chatter
TAKAYAMA.
So charming tonight...
CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU
chatter
Room 21...
Right...
chatter
...LATER IS FINE, RIGHT?
I don't wanna right now.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE DOING ANY-THING...
WAITING WOULD JUST BE A WASTE OF TIME. HURRY UP AND COME HERE
Crack!
Ughh!

Shut up!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THINGS THAT I DON'T WANT TO DO!!
WHAT I DO IN MY FREE TIME IS MY CHOICE, ISN'T IT!?
SNAP
SOMEHOW AZUMA SEEMS KIND OF LIKE A DOMINEERING HUSBAND
HEY TAKAYAMA.
IT'S FINE!
BUT..
HE'S CALLING YOU SHOULDN'T YOU GO OVER THERE?
That guy's always so scary
RIGHT NOW I'M BUSY. LATER WILL BE FINE, WON'T IT!!?
We share a room anyway
YOU MAKE ME SICK! WHO MADE YOU KING, YOU BASTARD?
AZUMA
KEEP BORING ON LIKE THAT AND I'LL SLING YOU OVER ONE SHOULDER. NOW HURRY UP AND COME HERE!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? WHAT'RE YOU BLOWING UP OVER? I WAS JUST ASKING YOU, WASN'T I?
HEY. DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY BUSINESS WITH HIM?
Eh?
UM... NOT REALLY...
Not anymore....
.....
SO!?
As I thought

DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!!
I HATE THAT! YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!!
step step
EEK!
HE'S COMING
!!
Why is this!?
So scary!
Uwa!?
wobble
thwack

Geh!
gya
MY RIGHT LEG!!
thud!
HE KICKED THE GOOD LEG THAT TAKAYAMA WAS RESTING ON WITH ALL HIS STRENTGH!?
THAT GUY HAS NO MERCY
HE'S A DEMON!!
...!
A MAN'S HYSTERIA IS A DISGRACE

GET!
WHAT!!
YOU BASTARD...
UWA!?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN-
SWING
SWING AROUND
SHUT
IF YOU DON'T SHUT YOUR MOUTH, I'LL DROP YOU ON YOUR HEAD NEXT
AZUMA!!
I'M GETTING DIZZY LIKE THIS!
Uwa!
O!?
WAIT... PUT ME DOWN!!
You can't be serious!
Are you listening to me, you bastard?
Scary!
HE REALLY DID JUST SLING HIM OVER ONE SHOULDER, AND LEAVE
IS AZUMA THE TYPE WHO ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE SAYS?
But that really isn't something you'd do normally
If it were me I'd just go with him.
Azuma was unnaturally strong like a weightman!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE THE PROBLEM...
More like what's Azuma going to do?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
BETWEEN THOSE TWO...

Hey—!
ARE THE GUYS FROM 1A, 3A AND 3C HERE?
IF THEY AREN'T, CAN SOMEONE GO UP TO THE NORTH HALL...
WHAT'S WRONG?
DORM LEADER!
Thanks
WELL... ACTUALLY THEY WERE HERE JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT...
WHO?
THE TWO FROM 3A
Oh?
... AND? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
WHERE? THEY'RE PROBABLY IN THEIR ROOM, I THINK, BUT...
THAT'S
HUH?
AZUMA CARRIED TAKAYAMA AWAY OVER ONE SHOULDER?
What the hell's that?
JUST WHY AGAIN
WE WANT TO KNOW TOO
3A
THUMP

CLICK!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO PICK A FIGHT
SO IT WAS FASTER THIS WAY.
What'd you say!?
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE
I'M SO DIZZY MY EYES ARE SWIRLING.
swirl swirl
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
You carried me up to the third floor!
Even though I didn't willingly let him carry me up. dammit
I feel sick!!!
BESIDES, SPEED'S NOT THE POINT
HUH?
For what?
JUST STAY LIKE THAT AND LISTEN
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME
Fourth year in the dorms
IT'S JUST A FEELING I HAVE FROM LIVING HERE FOR SO LONG. I THINK IT'LL BE IN 1-2 DAYS
WHY OUR ROOM?
OURS IS THE CLEANEST IN THE DORM.
You didn't they'll probably tell us soon.
How did it mess that?
THEY TOLD US THAT?
Joe's blanket
Eh?
I EXPECT THAT VERY SOON SEVERAL ROOMS WILL BE USED AS EMERGENCY LODGINGS FOR SOME OF THE NON-BOARDERS.
OUR ROOM WILL PROBABLY BE FIRST ON THE LIST.

I didn't think you were such an innocent to avoid me just because of a kiss...
It's not that!!
Of course not
I'm saying it's not that!
Gah!
It's naive
Also
You have been avoiding me lately, haven't you?
I'm not already!
We shouldn't be taking it easy either.
Everyone involved with this weekend's research paper presentations, and the end-of-term music concert is already strained with the preparations.
The fifth and sixth years will gradually start staying over.
It's about the winter holidays that start in ten days.
Hmm
If you've got something to say, then say it
Yes.
Normally, you'd go back to your parents house, and there'd be no problem, but you're not normal.
There's no problem
I'm fine.
Because I'm not so careless about everything.
Sorry!
Should you be saying that to others?
You're asking about that too?
SLUUUSH

YOU SAID TO KURACHI THAT YOU STILL HADN'T DECIDED WHERE TO GO, DIDN'T YOU?
Mn?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING...
I KNOW THAT MUCH AT LEAST!
DID YOU KNOW IF THAT SHOULD CHANGE, YOU SHOULD TELL OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER, KIKUCHI?
PREVIOUSLY, YOU WROTE THAT YOUR PERMANENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS YOUR RELATIVES HOUSE BUT...
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO AND NOW TO GET THERE FROM THE DORMS ISN'T IT?
AFTER THAT, WHEREVER I GO IS MY CHOICE
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE IF I WENT BACK TO AMERICA FOR A BIT.
Keh!
"WELL"...
MY PLANS HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED.
YOU MIGHT INTEND TO CRUISE CASUALLY ALONG, BUT YOU CAN'T.
WELL? WHERE WILL YOU GO?
—SO WHAT!?
DON'T BOTHER ABOUT ALL THESE MINUTE LITTLE DETAILS!
BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW IF HE COULD COME BACK BECAUSE HE WAS BUSY WITH WORK
...YOUR DAD?
SO HE IS TAKING A BREAK? THAT'S GOOD.
I JUST SAID I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT. THERE'S NO WAY I'D REALLY GO SINCE MY DAD'S GOING TO BE COMING TO JAPAN
You can barely walk.
YOU INTEND TO GO TO AMERICA 'FOR A BIT'? WITH THAT LEG?
WELL SAID FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST MADE ME FALL ON THAT LEG.
Give up on traveling.
Shut up!

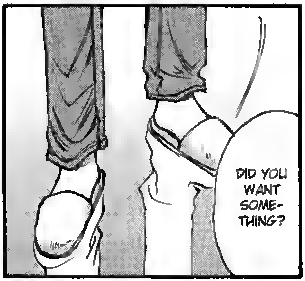
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M WORRIED JUST BECAUSE OF THE SCHOOL'S FORMS
AND...
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW YOU'VE BEEN ACTING THESE LAST FEW DAYS
...WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S FINE
BUT IF YOU EVER REALLY DO GET INTO TROUBLE,
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE DORM LEADER.
WHAT...?
BECAUSE DURING THE HOLIDAYS IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN, IT'LL BE TROUBLING TO THE SCHOOL AND TO THAT GUY AS WELL
Dorm shadegirl are troublesome
I... I KNOW THAT.
IT WOULD BE GOOD IF YOU REALLY DID KNOW THAT.
YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN PEOPLE, DO YOU?
Cl
YOUR STRENGTH IS THAT YOU HAVE NERVES OF STEEL
??
YOUR WEAKNESS IS BEYOND THAT, YOU'RE TOO NAIVE

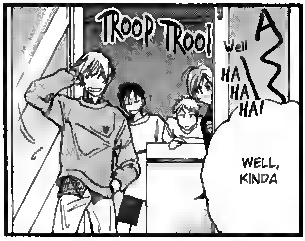
SO WHAT POINT ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE?
YOUR WAY OF THINKING RIGHT NOW IS NAIVE. YOU'RE FAR TOO OPTIMISTIC.
UNTIL NOW, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FINE. BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT YOU HAD A BIT MORE SELF-AWARENESS.
ABOUT THESE WINTER HOLIDAYS TWO WEEKS IN AN UNKNOWN PLACE AREN'T SHORT AT ALL.
IN THAT TIME...
THIS TIME, EVEN IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN...
I CAN'T COME SAVE YOU LIKE ALWAYS
!!
WHO WOULD...
Are You seriously
BUT THIS WINTER IT SEEMS THERE'LL BE A LOT GOING ON, SO I CAN'T TAKE YOU THERE
IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO, I WANTED TO AT LEAST OFFER YOU A PLACE AT MY SECOND HOUSE.
TRUTH-FULLY
I'M SORRY, BUT...
AZUMA!!
flush
Well...
IF YOU CALLED, IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT BUT...
There was no way you'll do that.

THUMP
WILL YOU QUIT IT ALREADY!?
DID ANYONE ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
DON'T ACT LIKE MY KEEPER!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE ME ACT LIKE THIS.
IT'S THE RESULT OF YOUR BEHAVIOUR FOR THESE LAST THREE AND A HALF MONTHS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.
...!
ANYONE CAN PROCLAIM THEIR INDEPENDENCE, OR EVEN SCREAM IT. THE PROBLEM IS AFTER THAT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET INVOLVED, DON'T SHOW ME YOUR WEAKNESSES.
WELL, TO ME, IT'S TYPICAL OF YOU.
AND USUALLY I DON'T REALLY MIND.
BUT THESE HOLIDAYS ARE DIFFERENT. HONESTLY, YOU'RE UNIQUE IN NOT HAVING A HOME TO GO BACK TO. IT'S A PITY
BUT DON'T THINK YOU CAN IMITATE WHAT I DO. IT'S DANGEROUS
IN ANY CASE, PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS IN THESE TWO WEEKS.

SOME-HOW, YOU GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF AN OVER-ZEALOUS MENTOR.
rumble
IT MAKES ME REMEMBER SOMEONE SAYING THAT WHENEVER YOU SPEAK IT SOUNDS SO CONDESCENDING.
Now I see
THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION, NOW AND BACK THEN.
I KNOW.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS PURE LOGIC TO YOU
EVERYTHING LOGICALLY ANALYSED, EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO PLAN, WITHOUT EVEN THE SMALLEST IRREGULARITY.
AREN'T YOU GREAT?
SO I ENDEAVOUR TO BE EVERY DAY.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEE FURTHER THAN THE END OF THEIR NOSES.
DON'T THINK THAT PEOPLE WHO CAN'T DO THINGS JUST AS PLANNED AREN'T TRYING!!
THERE ARE THINGS THAT NO ONE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT, AREN'T THERE!?

DON'T FORGET THE THINGS I'VE SAID TO YOU
OR THE THINGS THAT YOU'VE SAID TO ME
click
...DAMMIT!
OF COURSE
BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CONTROL HOW YOU REACT TO THEM IS YOURSELF
DON'T CHANGE THE ISSUE, TAKAYAMA


DID YOU WANT SOME-THING?


TROOP TROOP
Well HA HA HA!
WELL, KINDA

click
Oi!
Quit touching me!
Shut up and don't make a fuss!
Hey! Should we go to the south wing?
AH!
ONE OF THEM CAME OUT.

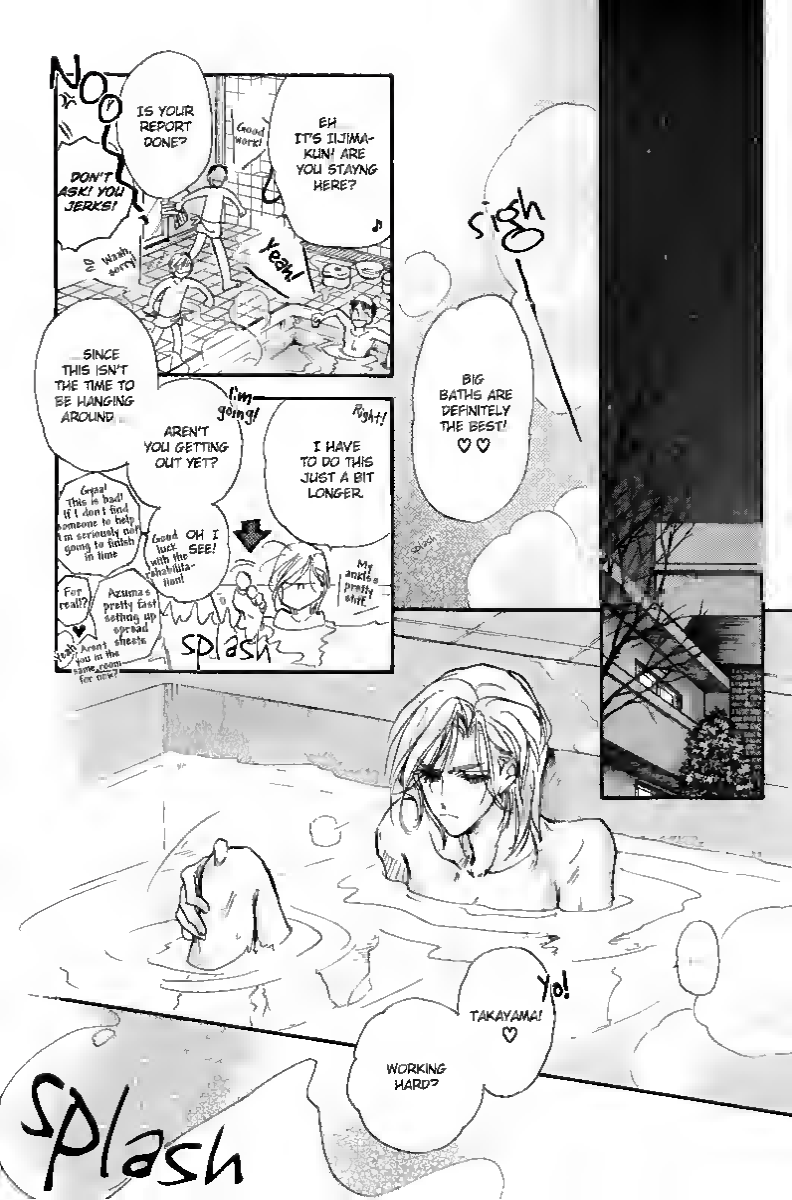
EH!?
Surprised
Understand
AH, YEAH GOT IT
THE DORM LEADER'S ANNOUNCED TONIGHT...
I KNOW THIS IS ON SHORT NOTICE, BUT
IT'S... UM...

flatly
THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
I SEE.
SO, ABOUT YOUR ROOM...
YOU OKAY WITH IT?

WHAT!? SO YOU KNEW ALREADY...
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE TOLD ME THOUGH
EH?
Yeah Iijima-Kun from 5th year
So do you know who'll be staying?
Oh the leader of the computer club?
I see.

THANKS FOR COMING UP ALL THIS WAY
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
38
AH.
OH? THANKS
No, there's not anything else
TELL HIM I'LL COME DOWN LATER.
WE'LL GO TELL THE DORM LEADER!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HA
LEAVE IT TO US!
IT'S SO QUIET
I THOUGHT HE WOULD PROTEST MORE
Last time he threw a tantrum at the sheds at the deer
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!
I HATE THAT! YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING!
3A

SORRY
BUT YOU MADE ME GO THIS FAR.
SO THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE YOU GO ALONG MY WAY UNTIL THE END.
UNTIL THE END?
WHEN WILL THAT BE?
IN ANY CASE...
UNTIL HE STARTS TO RUN AWAY FROM ME?
OR...
UNTIL THIS RELATIONSHIP CRUMBLES AWAY...


NO
IS YOUR REPORT DONE?
DON'T ASK! YOU JERKS!
Good work!
EH IT'S IIJIMA-KUN! ARE YOU STAYNG HERE?
Yeah!
Wish sorry
SINCE THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE HANGING AROUND
AREN'T YOU GETTING OUT YET?
I'm going!
Right!
I HAVE TO DO THIS JUST A BIT LONGER.
Gejus! This is bad! If I don't find someone to help I'm seriously gonna be finish in time
Good luck OH I SEE! with the rehabilita-tion!
My ankle's pretty sore
For real?
Azuma's pretty fast setting up spread sheets
Aren't you in the same room for one?
splash
sigh
BIG BATHS ARE DEFINITELY THE BEST! ♡♡
splash
Yo!
TAKAYAMA! ♡
WORKING HARD?
splash

WHOOPS, SORRY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE NOW!?
DON'T YOU NORMALLY TAKE A BATH EARLY?
No! That can't be!
Can't you get in more quietly?
But you know~
WHAT'S THIS I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT - YOU WERE KIDNAPPED BY AZUMA?
HEH!
Splash
Hehe!
REHABILITATION IN THE BATH! ♡
SHALL I HELP?
YOU JERK WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT WAS?
I HEARD IT WAS LIKE A WORKMAN CARRYING OFF A SANDBAG...
UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR!? FOR REAL!?
Amazing!
I'VE SEEN HIM PRACTICING MARTIAL ARTS FORMS UP ON THE ROOF!
I WONDER IF AZUMA DOES WEIGHTS TRAINING IN SECRET?
And you just let him carry you up!?
YEAH
(Grub, Grub)
What were you doing hahaha!
And stop getting in the way!
Shut up!
Eeeh
IS THAT SO...?
I didn't know
THAT'S RIGHT, HE CARRIED THAT OLD LADY AROUND HIS SECOND HOME FAIRLY OFTEN
It's such a waste! If only he would seriously do a sport
Yeah really!
Quite easily, and sometimes in a chair too...

SOMEHOW...
drip drip
Aren't I the useless good-for-nothing?
bubble bubble
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO MAKE AZUMA LOOK BACK AT ME ALREADY
Hey, are you drowning?
AND THAT PERSON, AKIO-SAN...
Excuse me...
I'm sorry!
IT SEEMS SHE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN HIM.
HE DISCIPLINES HIS BODY TOO, NOT JUST HIS MIND
IF WE FACED OFF, I'D DEFINITELY LOSE
You serious?
I'm a fight anyway
So!
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE END?
NOTHING !!
NOTHING AT ALL!!
So noisy
PERHAPS HE REALLY IS BEING BULLIED
Oh, how scary
I CAN'T TELL IF YOU TWO GET ALONG WELL OR BADLY, BUT...
I DO THINK IT'S GOOD THAT THE TWO OF YOU ARE TOGETHER.
splash!
bubble...
WHA, WHAT!?
splatter
HUH?
BECAUSE YOU KNOW, SINCE YOU CAME THAT GUY'S BEEN MUCH MORE PLEASANT! ♡
Hey, I'm getting wet!
You're so spiteful!
ITS LIKE I MADE TWO MORE FRIENDS... OR RATHER, THEY BOTH CAME BACK. I'M HAPPY!
Yeah!

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MATCH UP EQUALLY WITH AZUMA REALLY IS YOU!
HE DOESN'T TALK TO ANYONE MUCH, NORMALLY
AND NO ONE REALLY APPROACHED HIM.
I didn't like him at first, either
EQUAL ... HUH
IS THAT HOW IT LOOKS TO YOU?
Haha!
Eh?
THAT'S HOW IT IS, ISN'T IT?
FROM WAY BACK
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS. KURACHI... IF I THINK ABOUT HOW IT IS NOW...
...YEAH
FROM WAY BACK
...!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG TAKAYAMA?
Splash
It still hurts
MY LEG HURTS!

BUT IF I DON'T FORCE IT TO MOVE LIKE THIS, IT'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS.
It's tough having a half-healed bone...
quickly
splash
AND DESPITE THAT, THAT BASTARD WENT AND KICKED ME WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH.
MY LEG WAS ALREADY UNSTABLE!
I fell down right away!!
Dr... did you intend to be my crutch, you jerk!
I STILL GET NERVOUS WALKING AROUND IN CROWDS WITHOUT A CRUTCH, BUT...
Damn it!
JUST WATCH!! SOON I'LL BE RUNNING AGAIN!!
FUCKER!!
wha?
YOU...
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT TAKE IT EASY.
Right!!?
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, SINCE IT'S YOU!!

AKIO IS STRONG... ON THE INSIDE AND OUT
ANYONE CAN PROCLAIM THEIR INDEPENDENCE, OR EVEN SCREAM IT...
splash
JUST AS YOU SAID, AZUMA
AN 'EQUAL' RELATIONSHIP...
...CAN ONLY BE BUILT FROM TWO PEOPLE OF THE SAME STRENGTH
THE "RELATIONSHIP" THAT I WISHED FOR BETWEEN THE TWO OF US DOESN'T EXIST
I DIDN'T WANT TO THINK THAT BUT...
ARE THE SAME AS THAT BIRD FROM BACK THEN...
ME AND THAT OLD LADY...
I'M...
TO AZUMA...

IT'S JUST TWO ONE-WAY STREETS
THE WAY I AM NOW, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN
IT'S MORTIFY-ING BUT...
THAT'S THE REALITY OF IT

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Christmas Concert
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
DOUTOKU MUSIC FESTIVAL
HE'S CHANGED
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY LEFT BEHIND
15
18
16
17
Dec
19
GOT IT
Do things more quickly!
Karachi is in the Saitama suburbs.
IF YOU CAN COME TOO THEN COME!
MORE THAN HALF OF THE STUDENTS ARE FROM OTHER DISTRICTS, SO WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE, BUT...
I'll be going to all of them
But I don't know if I can come or not though
wicked
It's finally finished
TAKAYAMA
Here
IT'S THE SOCCER TRAINING PLAN FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS
wicked

—THAT IS ALL
BE AWARE THAT EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU IS A 'REPRESENTATIVE OF JOUHOKU, AND...
I HOPE YOU WILL SPEND THIS SHORT YET IMPORTANT HOLIDAY AMBITIOUSLY.
DISMISSED!
HEY TAKA-YAMA!
WAAAA
AH!
IT'S MINE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT!
Uwaa!
This year it's so early
How nice
MY HOUSE IS BURIED IN SNOW ALREADY...
Hiee
Whose is it?
THERE'S ONE TRAIN TICKET TO OSAKA LEFT!
rattle rattle
Gya! Gya!
THAT GUY'S GOING TO SKI IN CANADA!?
Go to-he!!!
MY MUM WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THE CAR OUT.
Wai. Wai.
thud thud thud thud thud
STOMP STOMP STOMP

I'M GOING NOW WHILE IT'S NOT SO CROWDED
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL GO AFTER I HAVE A WORD WITH THE JANITOR, TANAKA
OH... THEN I'LL GO FIRST
I see
AZUMA
...
WELL...
BYE BYE!
...YEAH.
Eh!?
TAKIYAMA, YOU'RE GOING ALREADY!?
LET'S GO TOGETHER!
Wait a minute!
You guys are so quick!
Sorry!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO I'LL BE GOING FIRST...
YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR SECOND HOUSE... RIGHT? SAY HI TO AKIO FOR ME.
And to Kimi-san and the bunny!
You even remember the toy?
YOU'RE STAYING WITH YOUR RELATIVES IN KAMAKURA AFTER ALL?
...FOR THE MOMENT
I THOUGHT I MIGHT TAKE THE CHANCE TO GO AROUND TO ALL THE TEMPLES, OR WHATEVER.
Haha!
There's a god of war shrine pretty close too.
THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER ME THIS TERM
SEE YOU NEXT TERM
Ah or rather next year?

He's always done stuff like this from way back! So unbearable
HE LEFT!!
JUST LIKE THAT
WELL THEN, SEE YOU!
HURRY UP AND GET YOUR LUGGAGE TOGETHER!
The sun's going down
Ah!
Azumai

SEE YOU KURACHI!
Take your time
AH...
Have a nice vacation♪
Just kidding!

What you're only up to your ankles!?
WAA
KURACHI-SAN, WILL YOU PLEASE HURRY UP!
THAT GUY TOO, HUH?
These guys are the worst
We'll never finish cleaning our room!

NO IT'S NOTHING!
Ha ha ha!
Oh Kurachi-kun... just what silly things are you saying?
HEIYU

HE'LL.
THIS TIME HE'LL COME BACK FOR SURE
This time
EH?
What?

—KUN?
JOUICHIROU-KUN? TAKAYAMA JOUICHIROU...?
UM...
That voice...
KITA-SAN? HOW DO YOU DO?
JUST TAKAYAMA'S FINE
AL-THOUGH IT'S HARD TO SAY, ISN'T IT?
NO, I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU WHILE YOU'RE BUSY
NO, THAT'S FINE IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT
I'M SORRY FOR RUNNING LATE

NO, IT'S FINE
BECAUSE I WANTED TO MEET YOU TOO
FIRSTLY...
AH...
HERE.
THANK YOU
THEN SHALL WE GO?
IT'LL HAVE TO BE RIGHT NOW THOUGH
Because I don't have much time sorry
I SEE

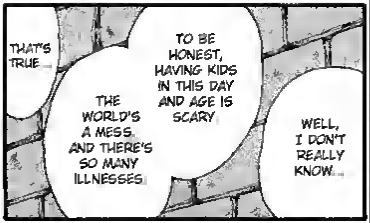
Model Mathematics II
IT'S ALREADY 8:30!? I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!
AAH
DAMMIT, I ONLY HAD ONE PROBLEM LEFT
Then I would have finished the fifth book.
CAN'T BE HELPED.
I'll do it when I get home.
rustle
Tch!
alarm call

*A legend where a fisherman, Urashima Taro, rescues a turtle princess and is rewarded with a visit to the Dragon Palace at the bottom of the sea. However, when he returns home, 500 years have passed.

EVERYTHING'S LOCKED, THE GAS IS OFF...
WHAT ELSE...?
IT WASN'T NECESSARY AT SCHOOL, BUT.
NAH, THE LIFESTYLE THERE IS LIKE SOMETHING FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO
Yeah
Like Urashima Taro*
←Icon
The panda dances.
It looks like a toy
Roll over and give it some thought
BUT JAPANESE PHONES SURE CAN DO AN AWFUL LOT...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ON PREPAID, IT'S REALLY USEFUL
motorcycle license
SINCE I GOT IT AND ALL.
MIGHT AS WELL BRING THIS ♪
SIX DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WINTER HOLIDAYS
click

WHY HE DID SO WAS BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH HE SAID HE'D BE COMING BACK TO LIVE WITH ME
I COULDN'T SIGN THE CONTRACT AND OTHER SUCH INCONVENIENT THINGS, SINCE I'M A MINOR
UNLIKE MY SLOPPY OLD MAN, IT TOOK SOME TIME TO GET THE ASSISTANT'S CONSENT
Well, that's not surprising
THE ONE WHO PROPOSED IT WAS ME. MY OLD MAN SELECTED AN "ASSISTANT"
IT TOOK SOME TROUBLE TO ORGANIZE WHERE I'M STAYING...
IT'S AN APARTMENT IN THE CITY THAT'S LEASED OUT TO PEOPLE AT THE NEWS AGENCY ON A WEEKLY, OR MONTHLY BASIS
GOOD MORNING!
MORNING!
ASSISTANT - KITA-SAN (35) A KOUHAI FROM MY OLD MAN'S COMPANY
——BUT NOT JUST THAT

HE ALSO GRADUATED FROM JOUHOKU
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S MY OLD MAN'S KOUHAI AND MY SENPAI
YES
AS USUAL, YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME
DO YOU HAVE WORK TODAY TOO?
THE WAITER'S COME. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
Eat properly young man
AND ONE MORE CAPPUCINO FOR ME
UM THEN, A SALMON BAGEL
On the rocks, right?
AND AFTER THAT, A CAFE AU LAIT
KITA-SAN?
CAN IT BE THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF?
Hehe!
I WONDER IF I SHOULD DROP BY ONE DAY ♡
In comes the old man!
Eh? OO
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU PAY EACH TIME.
NO, NOT AT ALL.
Really
BY THE WAY, DO YOU DO THIS SORT OF THING AT YOUR JOB?
STUDENTS SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WELL, I STILL CAN'T GET OVER IT!
THAT YOU'RE TAKAYAMA-SENPAI'S CHILD
HAHA...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S ONLY FOUR YEARS OLDER THAN ME...
He has a son this grown up?

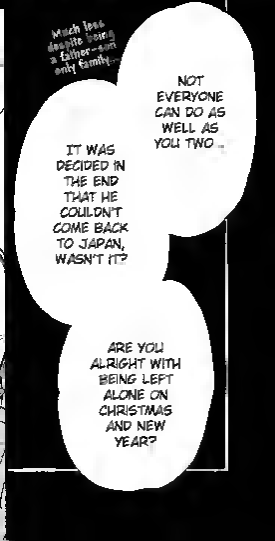

THAT'S TRUE...
TO BE HONEST, HAVING KIDS IN THIS DAY AND AGE IS SCARY.
THE WORLD'S A MESS, AND THERE'S SO MANY ILLNESSES.
WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW...

...THAT OPTIMISM...
YOU CERTAINLY ARE YOUR FATHER'S SON.
BUT IT'LL BE OKAY FOR SURE
A man's blues before marriage? Oh my!
Ehehe!
Every thing will work out somehow...
Like you've got no worries at all
Hrm.

sigh...
AS A BACHELOR, I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE.
BUT KITA-SAN, AREN'T YOU GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR?
NO DOUBT YOU'LL BECOME A FATHER RIGHT AWAY.
Wiggle

REALLY...
IT'S FINE! AS LONG AS HE'S WORKING HARD.
BESIDES THAT GUY'S STILL YOUNG
YOU SOUND LIKE A CONSIDERATE WIFE HOW UNDERSTAND-ING

No matter what, if I really wanted to see him I'd go see him
ON THE CONTRARY...
IT'S ME WHO'S LEFT MY OLD MAN ALONE
Chomp


Much less despite being a father—am I right, family...
NOT EVERYONE CAN DO AS WELL AS YOU TWO...
IT WAS DECIDED IN THE END THAT HE COULDN'T COME BACK TO JAPAN, WASN'T IT?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH BEING LEFT ALONE ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR?

Hateful Wedlock
Weird Ted
EH?
WHY DON'T WE HAVE DINNER TOGETHER THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD TO LET YOU JUST RUN WILD EITHER.
OR DO YOU HAVE PLANS?
IT'S A RELIEF TO ME AS A "GUARANTOR".
Hahaha
BEING ABLE TO SAY THAT SERIOUSLY...
IT REALLY MAKES ME FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU - I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BAD NOW.
SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO CASUALLY...
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE MORE MATURE THAN YOU LOOK.
NO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT IS IT OKAY? IT'LL BE SATURDAY AND ALL.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, I'M REALLY OKAY...
LET ME TREAT MY CUTE KOUHAI TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SANDWICH EVERY NOW AND THEN.
Come now!
THE FIRST TIME WE MET,
HE TOLD ME ON THE WAY THAT...
HE INVITED ME OUT, WHAT A HUGE CHANGE.
WHEN I TELL MY DAD, I WONDER IF HE'LL BE SURPRISED TOO...
WHOA!
...
Send me a text ♪
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT.
I'VE GOT TO GO.

"I TRUST YOUR FATHER, BUT I CAN'T TRUST YOU YET."
BUT TAKAYAMA-SENPAI'S LOOKED AFTER ME,
AND HE TRUSTS YOU, HIS SON, VERY MUCH
HE'S STEADY BUT IT FEELS LIKE HE'D REJECT ANY SENSE OF FAMILIARITY
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WON'T BETRAY YOUR TRUST.
AND YOU ARE ALSO A STUDENT AT JOUHOKU.
I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THESE TWO THINGS TO VOUCH FOR YOUR CHARACTER.
EVERY MORNING DURING THE WEEK, I'M IN THAT CAFE FROM BEFORE.
IT'S ACTUALLY TO HAVE SOME TIME ALONE, BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU COME AND UPDATE ME ON HOW THINGS ARE GOING?
I'M THERE UNTIL 9:30
BECAUSE OF MY WORK, I ONLY HAVE TIME IN THE MORNING.
OF COURSE, I'M NOT INSISTING ON IT.
HOW YOU SPEND YOUR WINTER HOLIDAYS IS UP TO YOU
BUT...
I JUST DON'T WANT TO REGRET...
IT'S FINE
HAVING GIVEN YOU THAT KEY
...I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN.
A WARNING NOT TO LEAD A DISSIPATED LIFESTYLE, HUH?
WHAT YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT DEFINITELY WON'T HAPPEN.

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I SHOULD DO, BUT I FEEL THAT I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING
FOR THE TIME BEING, I WANT TO START AFRESH BY MYSELF, AT MY OWN PACE
I WILL REGAIN MYSELF.
MY CONFIDENCE, MY PRIDE, MY IDENTITY
EVERYTHING THAT I LOST LIVING AT JOUHOKU
AFTER ALL, I'M STAKING EVERYTHING ON THESE TWO WEEKS.
YES.
R.N.Y

Good morning!
WITHOUT THINKING OF ANYTHING UNNECESSARY...
Lunch Style
OPEN AM10 30
CLOSED PM9 30
OPEN
—— YES. RIGHT NOW, I WON'T THINK OF 'ANYTHING'
TAKAYAMA JOUICHIROU, CAFE WORKER FOR TWO WEEKS,
A SHORT-TERM WORK EXPERIENCE
MORNING JOUICHIROU-KUN!
THE WORLD IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE
IF YOU LIFT YOUR FACE, YOU WILL FEEL THE SIGH OF A NEW WIND
CAFÉ
FOR THE TIME BEING, I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE MY ATTITUDE AND WORK UP SOME SWEAT
BECAUSE, TO GO ON LIKE BEFORE IS TOO AGONIZING
AZUMA...

earnest wish Ende
the first part

See You next Stage!

Jouhoku Scanlations

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Jouhoku Scanlations

Demian Syndrome

by Mamiya Oki

Volume 3 Chapter 12

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Second Stage
#2 earnest wish
the latter part

HEY, WHEN WILL THOSE PHOTOS BE DONE?
THE ONES THAT HAD TO BE ENLARGED
PROBABLY AROUND 6PM. I THOUGHT I'D PICK THEM UP ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE TRAINING CENTRE.
IS THAT TOO LATE?
IT'S FINE THANK YOU.
IT'S SUCH A PAIN REALLY, I PROBABLY SHOULD JUST BUY A DIGITAL CAMERA
Naa Seez!!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
It would save on expenses, money being the main factor
HMM...
DO WHAT YOU WANT?
click click click
Wears glasses when using the PC
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? LATELY YOU HAVEN'T SEEMED VERY WELL ..
ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
NOT REALLY I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS
IS THAT SO?
...

WELL, IT IS A LOT EASIER WHEN YOU'RE HERE TO HELP ME
BUT SINCE IT'S THE WINTER HOLIDAYS WHY DON'T YOU RELAX A BIT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
KIMI-SAN'S THE ONE NOT DOING WELL
THERE'S PROBABLY NOT MUCH TIME LEFT
BY THE WAY, HOW'S THAT BOY!?
...
HOW IS HE DOING? TAKAYAMA-KUN?
WHO KNOWS
"WHO KNOWS" ... LOOK, YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T PROMISED TO MEET UP?
IT'S THE FIRST LONG HOLIDAY HE'S HAD SINCE RETURNING TO JAPAN, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE HAVE HIM COME OVER HERE AGAIN?
I'M SURE IT'LL MAKE MADAM A BIT HAPPIER TO SEE HIM...
AKIO.
DON'T GET HIM INVOLVED IN ALL THIS

I WASN'T I JUST. .
I JUST THOUGHT HE'D DEFINITELY BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR YOU
HE'S NOT THAT STRONG.
DON'T WRITE HIM OFF LIKE THAT!
Although certainly he seems a bit weak health-wise...
EVEN IF HE LOOKS LIKE THAT, HE'S STRONG ON THE INSIDE
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT MUCH.
HE MAY APPEAR BRIGHT
BUT ON THE INSIDE THERE'S A BOMB WAITING TO EXPLODE.
TO WHAT EXTENT...
A BOMB?
DOES HE HIMSELF UNDERSTAND THAT?
BUT IT MAY BE DEFECTIVE.
EEH?
—IT'S TIME.

I'M GOING OUT.
CALL ME ON MY MOBILE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
W...
WAIT, TAKASHI!?
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY
I HAD NO INTENTION OF BRINGING OTHER PEOPLE TO THIS HOUSE.
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, SO PLEASE FORGET ABOUT IT.
TAKASHI!!
HEY... WAIT A MINUTE!
do ng!
Hirizu Technique, crushing of cockroaches Swing!
!!
I SAID WAIT, YOU PUNK!
IT'S TEN YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO TRY TO IGNORE ME AND WALK OUT!!
You licenseless brat!
AND JUST WHO'S DONE THAT TWICE ALREADY I WONDER?
IF YOU CAN'T STAND IT, HURRY UP AND GET YOUR LICENSE!
TCH!
Ho ho ho
I KNOW NOT TO!!
I WASN'T GOING TO!
YOU CAN'T TAKE THE ZRX TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL!
TAKE THE SCOOTER
As proper
Don't nag over every little thing!!
WHAT!?
A slipper!?
You're brutal

GEEZ
HEY, IS THIS BIKE YOURS?
GO HOME.... WHERE TO?
JYOU, LET'S GO HOME.
WHERE DO YOU THINK I SHOULD GO HOME TO?
....
Beep
room/room

AKIO? YEAH, I SAW YOUR MESSAGE.
I CONFIRMED IT, IT'S FINE.
NOW? NO, NOT THAT
I'M NOT IN YOKOHAMA ANYMORE.
...WELL, IN JUST A BIT.
OKAY, OKAY! I'M IN KAMAKURA.
IT'S JUST NEAR-BY...
WHY, YOU ASK...
JUST FOR A CHANGE OF PACE
YOU BIKE RIDE, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS
OKAY! I GET IT.
...LATER.
I'M JUST CONFIRMING IT
THE ADDRESS FROM THE MEMO SHOULD BE AROUND HERE
AS IF I COULD SAY WHY.
I JUST COULDN'T QUITE BELIEVE THE WAY HE SAID IT.
THAT HE'S HERE IN THE HOUSE OF "HIS RELATIVES IN KAMAKURA"
I DON'T WANT TO JUST RUN INTO HIM

For all deliveries
From December 17th until the end of the year we are away
If there's anything you should need to contact us about please use the following address
Kamakura City No.2 1
THE 17TH ...? WASN'T THAT STILL DURING THE SEMESTER?
WHAT IS THIS?
.EH?
OVER THERE ..?
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...?
I'M ACTING LIKE A COMPLETE STALKER.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ANYONE'S BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE
I THOUGHT I MIGHT TAKE THE CHANCE TO GO AROUND ALL THE TEMPLES
OR WHAT-EVER
HA HA
HE THERE'S NO WAY HE DIDN'T KNOW
THEN
WHERE DID HE GO?
DON'T ACT LIKE MY KEEPER!
WHY DID HE GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF HIDING IT...?
!

BECAUSE I....
PRESSED HIM SO HARD?
AND SO...
——HAS IT COME TO THIS?
JOUICHIROU-KUN?
HE'S GONE TO AMERICA WITH HIS FATHER, YOU KNOW.
....!
SINCE THEN
THAT STRANGELY IRREPRESSIBLE SMILE OF HIS HAS BEEN STUCK IN MY HEAD ALL THIS TIME BUT...
THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER ME
SEE YOU NEXT TERM.
...HA
HUHUHA
I'VE BEEN HAD
JOU...YOU BASTARD
Hah!

DO YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM ME
THAT MUCH ———— ?
———————— FINALLY
JUST AS I WISHED FOR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING..
BUT...

I LIVED WITH MY GRAND-PARENTS, HE LIVED WITH HIS GRAND-MOTHER
MY MOTHER WAS IN THE HOSPITAL. HIS FATHER RARELY CAME HOME BECAUSE OF HIS WORK
BOTH OF US WERE FROM SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
IS THIS YOUR MOTHER?
in earnest
WHAT A BEAUTY
I LOOK LIKE MY MOTHER.
IT SEEMS
Or so my dad says
What about you?
I'M TOLD I LOOK LIKE MY DAD
Thanks
I can imagine
This is a married woman? She's so young--
Why?
BOTH OF US DIDN'T SPEAK MUCH ABOUT OUR FAMILIES USUALLY
BUT THAT ONLY WAS DIFFERENT.
GRANDMA
SHE'S NOT VERY WELL.
RECENTLY I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT IT
IF MY GRANDMA PASSES AWAY, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME... AND STUFF

HE DIDN'T SAY IT CLEARLY BUT,
HE WONDERED ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER
WOULD HE BE THROWN AWAY?
———— HE WAS AFRAID OF THAT
WHY? YOU STILL HAVE YOUR DAD, DON'T YOU?
. WELL, YEAH
AAA-AH, WHEN WE GET INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL, I'VE DECIDED TO ENTER THE DORMS...
No girly how sad-
At least in the hospital there are nurses
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I . .
HAVE TO STAY AT HOME AND WAIT FOR MY MOTHER
OH YEAH
Sorry
IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT WHEN YOU SEE HIM NOW
SO
WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT HE'D GONE WITH HIS FATHER TO AMERICA
I WAS SURPRISED, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND I COULD UNDERSTAND VERY WELL WHY.
BUT HE RETURNED AS NATURALLY AS HE HAD LEFT
IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GETTING ALONG WELL WITH HIS FATHER
IT'S GOOD HE WAS ABLE TO GO WITH HIM
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT THAT...
FOR HIM TO BE CARRYING THAT "BOMB"...
bang
bang
bang
bang
bang
bang
bang
bang
KENSETSU

THE PROBLEM WAS BECAUSE OF THAT, TAKAYAMA'S SCARS WERE REVEALED
NOTHING RARE AT AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL
AN INJURY FROM SOCCER PRACTICE, TEMPORARY MEMORY LOSS DUE TO CONCUSSION
Bang!
bang bang
Your father's over there
WE'RE AT THE DORM IN YOUR ROOM.
——IT'S JUST NOISE FROM THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IT'LL BE OVER SOON
WHERE AM I ? MY HEAD HURTS
...COME LIE DOWN FOR A BIT
THE MEMORIES OF WHEN HE WAS ALMOST KILLED AT GUNPOINT
——— WHY
HEY...
DAD
DAD!
DOUG'S BEEN
HIS MEMORIES ARE STILL CONFUSED...
IT'S JUST FOR NOW
...N

JUST FOR NOW
I'LL FORGIVE MYSELF..
FOR RETURNING TO MY FORMER SELF
FOR YOU, WHO HAS RETURNED TO BEING A CHILD——
AFTER THAT
I GOT HIS FATHER'S PHONE NUMBER FROM THE TEACHERS
I ALSO TRIED CALLING HIS COMPANY'S INTERNATIONAL NUMBER
HE WAS AWAY
"HE'D SUDDENLY GONE ON A TRIP TO COVER AN EVENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WOULDN'T BE COMING BACK FOR A WHILE."
SAID THE KIND VOICE OF A WOMAN
dang!
"DON'T WORRY, BE WELL," YOU SAY? AS A PARENT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORRIED!?
DON'T JUST LEAVE YOUR PTSD SON BE!
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE...
...TCH

— I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO CRITICIZE OTHER PEOPLE'S PARENTS BUT..
SINCE WHEN..
JUST HOW MUCH DOES HE UNDERSTAND?
IT'S GOTTEN COLDER TODAY.
WELL, IF I KNOW HIM
EVEN IF I DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM AT THIS STAGE
I'M SURE HE'S DOING FINE
...BUT AREN'T YOU ALONE?

IS THERE SOMEONE BY YOUR SIDE?
OR...
SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW....
JUST DON'T LET HIM BE ALONE...
ANYONE WOULD BE FINE
BUT, FOR NOW
JOU...
WHERE ON EARTH ARE YOU?
cafe Garcon

Waaa!!
FRESHLY MADE DESSERT! I LOVE IT
Crème brulee
It makes this 'gaaaah' sound
YOU PUT ON A LAYER OF COARSE SUGAR, AND THEN USE A BLOW TORCH TO CARAMELIZE IT!
It's fascinating to watch!
Eeeh~
I see Eeeh
This boy is so cute!
Gazor
How do they make it smooth like this?
WELL, THAT'S...
Excuse-me~!
AN ASHTRAY PLEASE
And after that, can we order?
Thanks!
Ye~s
Do you have menus?
Gazor
Ah!
WELCOME!
Well
HOW'VE YOU BEEN? THEY'RE LETTING YOU SERVE OUT IN FRONT NOW, I SEE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY WITH WORK?
Yeah until yesterday I was busy with a film review
I'll have a large one of this and the gado-gado afterwards or maybe you know?
THANKS TO YOU
Yes
Catch

Order for table five!
A LARGE CAFE AU LAIT, A CHICKEN BREAST WITH THE GADO-GADO SALAD AND ONE BAGEL,
...RIGHT?
Good!
hurry up! ♡
A FEW DAYS OF WINTER BREAK HAVE PASSED, SINCE I UNEXPECTEDLY STARTED WORKING
WITHOUT MY KNOWING, THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST ABOUT HALF-GONE
"GAZON" IS A COZY LITTLE CAFE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHIMOKITA
IT'S OPEN FOR BUSINESS EVEN DURING THE NEW YEAR
POP!
EXCUSE ME SHIMIZU-SAN?
Are you free?
THERE'S AN ORDER...
AH, THE OWNER IS WRITING OVER ON TABLE FIVE
Look after him?
GOT IT.
GAZON
And so
WHERE'S OUR CHEF GONE?
Shall I open that?
OUT FOR A SMOKE AGAIN?
HE'S OUT BACK WITH THE MANAGER
Sour prune...
What? Is it?
No, it's okay. I've almost got it.

YOU GOT IT.
WHAT WERE THE TWO OF YOU DOING? DECIDING THE MENU FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY?
That guy's so demanding!
Argh!!
Sorry but
AFTER I FINISH SMOKING THIS, I'LL GO.
yeah yeah
THE ORDER'S FROM THE OWNER!

IT'S FINE HERE. YOU CAN SMOKE OUT HERE WITHOUT BOTHERING ANYONE OR ANYONE WATCHING.
AND...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT AT THE BACK DOOR. THERE ARE EMPTY SEATS INSIDE.
STU-- PID

THAT'S IT'S REALLY THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE PROPER WORK!
Eh!?
Please believe me!
THEN IT'S A LIE THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST PART TIME JOB, RIGHT? YOU'RE QUICK AT WASHING STACKS OF DISHES, AND YOU SEEM USED TO CLEANING THE FLOORS AS WELL...
EVEN THE RUBBISH BINS SHINE. SHIMIZU AND I WERE IMPRESSED. CAN IT BE THAT YOUR HOBBY IS CLEANING?
NOT AT ALL.
Eh!

IT'S BECAUSE A CERTAIN SOMEONE CLEANED UP AROUND HERE
IT'S STRANGELY COMFORTABLE HERE NOW
!

I was scrubbing out ten or so
COULD IT BE THAT I PICKED UP AN ADDICTION FOR WORK AT SCHOOL?
IT WASN'T THAT I WAS REALLY HAPPY OR ANYTHING... MORE LIKE IT WAS A CHALLENGE
Gazon
...
Ha ha
I BELIEVE YOU! 'COS YOU'RE A GOOD KID
BUT YOU KNOW, EVEN THE MOST DILIGENT FELLAS WILL START COMPLAINING IF YOU ONLY HAVE THEM DO WORK IN THE BACK, AND THEY ALWAYS QUIT EVENTUALLY
He he he
Especially the ones who are proud of their looks
I SEE..
I see!
NO WONDER YOU WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE OWNER.
Gazon
HE CAN BE A BIT OF AN ODD GUY TOO
YOU'RE THE FIRST GUY I'VE SEEN LOOK HAPPY SCRUBBING OUT BUCKETS
You're so funny—
THE IDIOT WHO HAD AN ACCIDENT AND IS HOSPITALIZED FOR NOW IS A RACER. THE OWNER IS A MOVIE FANATIC.
...AND YOU?
You went to see the sunrise on Mount Fuji and such
MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHER!!
Yeah
It was just amateur stuff though
MANAGER WAS A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER?
YUMA IS AN ACTRESS IN THEATRE, AND SHIMIZU USED TO RUN A RAMEN SHOP.
I'm your boss right? Your boss!
What!
ISN'T IT FINE? C'MON, TELL ME WHAT KIND OF CONNECTION DO YOU HAVE?
NOT TELLING!
WHERE WERE YOU PICKED UP BY THE OWNER?
THAT'S A SECRET

MY CONNECTION WITH THE OWNER?
ACTUALLY, I JUST MADE HIS ACQUAINTANCE QUITE RECENTLY
Tch
NO GOOD HUH?
HE'S MORE STUBBORN THAN I THOUGHT
Couldn't get anything out of him
Yeah
YOU'RE RIGHT
I've already been out here too long!
I'LL GO BACK SOON TOO.
AH, I'D BETTER GO BACK ALREADY
Umm
MANAGER IS UNEXPECTEDLY CHATTY.
I hadn't talked to him before
WE ENDED UP TALKING SO MUCH...
HE HIMSELF ASKED ME NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE WE MET... THAT PLACE WAS...
THE EXAM CENTRE FOR MOTOR-CYCLISTS.
AS IT HAPPENED, HE WAS SITTING NEXT TO ME.

"AN INTERESTING PERSON WITH MANY DREAMS"
ACTUALLY, HE OWNS SEVERAL BUILDINGS
BECAUSE HE LOVES MOVIES, HE OPENED UP AND MANAGES A CAFE NEAR A MOVIE THEATRE HE ALSO WRITES A REGULAR COLUMN FOR A MAGAZINE
SHALL WE GO HAVE SOME LUNCH TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE PASSING?
My dream is to ride a Harley Davidson
SOUNDS GOOD! LET'S GO
THANK GOODNESS HE PASSED...
_____ IN OTHER WORDS, AN AMAZINGLY ACTIVE PERSON
BUT, I ONLY REALIZED THIS SINCE WORKING AT GACON
What!
NO WAY!
BUT IT'S EMBARRASSING ISN'T IT?
AN OLD MAN NEARING HIS SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY ON A MOTORCYCLE!
You've got so much spirit!
All the kids at the shop would laugh and say it was impossible!
UWAAAAA I'm definitely going to fail again
YOU'LL BE FINE!!
Just take a few deep breaths!
Will he be alright?
I'm going to look an idiot again...
From the front or the back I'll fall off
IF I HADN'T SPOKEN TO HIM AT THAT TIME

GOOD WORK!!
CLOSE
THE WORLD IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE
FROM ONE TRIVIAL ENCOUNTER ONE'S PRESENCE CAN EXPAND,
LIKE RIPPLES FROM A STONE INTO A POOL OF WATER...

I can hear you Yuma!!
IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, JUST REFUSE!
THE MANAGER REALLY DOES EXPLOIT PEOPLE HAS HE FORGOTTEN YOU'RE ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
OH THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF
NAH, I'M RATHER THANKFUL FOR IT.
IT'S BETTER THAN JUST STUDYING AT HOME
YEAH, WELL..
NO I DON'T MIND I FINISHED CLEANING THE FLOORS
SORRY.
IN THE END, WE HAD YOU STAY UNTIL CLOSING TIME TODAY AS WELL.
We're getting steadily through the spring cleaning. ♪
Oh, good work.
ERUH
Ah- in that case
ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU'RE SCRUBBING OUT BUCKETS ONLY THAT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANYONE TO EAT WITH?
HA HA HA
attended
That's just too terrible. Honestly you.
Shimizu's first drink
How mean!
drinking
What, what!?
IT CAN'T BE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO COME TO BUT HERE?
HOW SAD DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
STOP PROVOKING HIM, MANAGER! YOU TOO, JOU-KUN.
WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT...
Yuu-
HE HE HE
Dammit
That hurts
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SAYING THAT SORT OF HARD TRUTH TO A DRUNK...
OH?
HOW MANY GIRLS DOES THAT MAKE IT?
Look here.
Do you have super-human hearing?
CRAP
Yuu...
Oi!
She was sure hiding things, wasn't she.
DIDN'T YOU BET THAT YOU WOULD GET A GIRLFRIEND THIS YEAR?
BUT JUST TODAY YOU WERE REJECTED.
The bet you made with Manager.
gasp
AND BESIDES SHIMIZU-SAN CAN TALK,
THEN THIS SATURDAY..
I DO HAVE SOMEONE! FOR THAT AT LEAST

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT MORE LIGHTLY
——I STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DISCIPLINE
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
...I'M HOME.

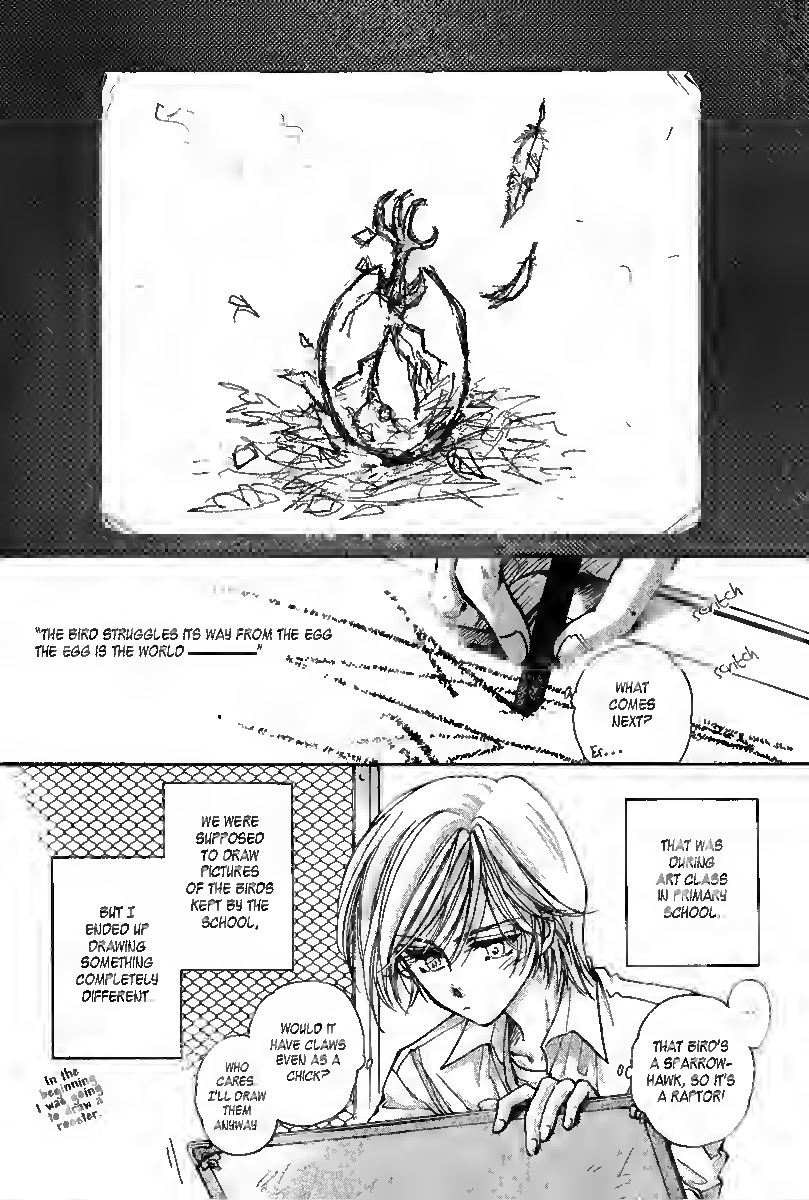
SOMEHOW I,
BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS
IT SEEMS I'VE GOTTEN
USED TO BEING AROUND PEOPLE,
AN EMPTY ROOM
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS THOUGH
beep
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALWAYS NORMAL FOR ME TO BE ALONE AT HOME...
AT THE DORMS
I HAD PLANNED TO STAY HERE FOR THE MAJORITY OF TIME AND GET THINGS DONE BUT...
I ought to be working less than this.
?
IT'S PROBABLY GOOD I'VE GOT MY PART TIME JOB. THE WAY I AM NOW
beep-
EH?
Jouchi-rou-kun? It's Kita
Sorry about this.
A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE... COULD IT BE FROM MY OLD MAN!?
badump

I HATE THINGS I CAN'T CONTROL, INCLUDING MY OWN FEELINGS.
THAT'S WHY I TRAIN MYSELF.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DISCIPLINE.
WITH JUST THIS MUCH, I...
IF IT WERE HIM, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BATTED AN EYELASH
Actually I'm in the middle of some work that suddenly came up and I'm afraid I'll have to cancel our appointment for tomorrow.
I'm really very sorry. I'll definitely make it up to you.
I'll contact you again later. See you.
beep
beep

THE "PRESENCE" OF PEOPLE FROM DAYTIME CAN'T BE SEEN AS SOON AS IT BECOMES NIGHT...

I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER.

IF I DON'T
HE'LL BECOME EVEN MORE DISTANT ———


"THE BIRD STRUGGLES ITS WAY FROM THE EGG
THE EGG IS THE WORLD ——"
scratch
scratch
WHAT COMES NEXT?
Er...
THAT WAS DURING ART CLASS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DRAW PICTURES OF THE BIRDS KEPT BY THE SCHOOL,
BUT I ENDED UP DRAWING SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THAT BIRD'S A SPARROWHAWK, SO IT'S A RAPTOR!
WOULD IT HAVE CLAWS EVEN AS A CHICK?
WHO CARES. I'LL DRAW THEM ANYWAY
In the beginning I was going to draw a rooster.

Shut up!
It sucks
HOW IS THAT A PICTURE OF A BIRD?
GIVE IT BACK, STUPID KURACHI!!
TEACHER, SOMEONE'S DRAWN SOMETHING WEIRD—
blush
YOU!!
AH!?
Grab
GO SPARROW-HAWK!
BRACE YOURSELF AND GET OUT!
TAKAYAMA, JUST WHAT'VE YOU DRAWN?
Uwa!
WITHOUT THINKING I HAD DRAWN IT... THAT CHILDISH INTERPRETATION,
OF H. HESSE'S NOVEL "DEMIAN"..
AT THAT TIME... I JUST HAPPENED TO FIND THE NOVEL THAT I SAW HIM READING IN A SECOND-HAND BOOKSTORE
I'D WONDERED WHAT IT WAS ABOUT... AND STARTED READING IT IN SECRET
THE CONTENT... AT THAT TIME TO ME IT WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT... AND HONESTLY IT WAS HEAVY GOING...
Kya...! I still haven't decided what to draw!
BUT,
EVEN JUST A FRACTION OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THAT "SPARROWHAWK" MANAGED TO REMAIN IN MY HEART
BRING BACK YOUR PICTURES IF YOU'RE FINISHED—!
Yo-o!

BREAK THAT EGG-SHELL TO BITS!
...OR WHATEVER.
IT HAS THAT FEEL? IT'S INTERESTING
Nadaka you're weird!
Haha
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WAS SURPRISED...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
Quit talking about things no one gets—
HE'S JUST AVOIDING DRAWING AN ACTUAL BIRD!
What is!?
left out
YOU REALLY UNDERSTOOD MY PICTURE
I WAS RIGHT? BUT IT'S EXACTLY AS IT LOOKS
This picture
Re-really?
Yeah
What about yours?
I already handed it in.
JOU!
There's still time, so draw another picture
WE—WELL, IT'S QUITE AN AVANT-GARDE PIECE
BUT FOR TODAY, LET'S DRAW SOME BIRDS

I KNOW, LET'S MAKE A PHOTOCOPY
THERE'S A PHOTO-COPIER TUCKED AWAY IN THE ARTS ROOM
IT'S NOT FINE!
AFTER ALL, IT'S THAT "SPARROW-HAWK" RIGHT?
Earnest
I've drawn it so I'm satisfied
THEY PROBABLY WON'T GIVE IT BACK TO YOU
THAT'S FINE!
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THAT PICTURE?
HAND IT IN. IT'S STILL A BIRD.
HONESTLY, HIS REACTION WAS SUR-PRISING
AFTER ALL,
WHY?
IF YOU LIKE IT THAT MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU DRAW ONE YOURSELF?
gasp
YOU'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO DRAW IT BETTER ANYWAY.
N...
NO WAY
THAT PICTURE'S GREAT.
IN THE NOVEL, THE IMAGE WAS OF THE SPARROWHAWK STRUGGLING OUT OF THE SHELL WITH THE TOP HALF OF ITS BODY
MINE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THAT AT ALL

THE WAY JUST ONE LEG'S MANAGED TO COME OUT OF THE EGG,
IS EXACTLY LIKE HOW WE ARE NOW THAT'S WHY IT'S GOOD.
You can't see anything else!
BUT THE MAIN CHARACTER, SINCLAIR WAS SEVENTEEN WHEN HE DREW HIS PICTURE
SO WE'VE GOT FROM NOW ON TO PREPARE TO FLY
OR WHAT-EVER
HE TURNED IT INTO A JOKE STRAIGHT AWAY BUT
NOW I THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAS PROBABLY HIS PROCLAMATION TO ESCAPE FROM HIS SHELL
crack!
BACK THEN,
HE WAS SO CUTE.

Ka
ka
ka
JUST LIKE HE PROCLAIMED, HE'S ALREADY SMASHED THROUGH HIS SHELL
AND NOW HE FLIES AROUND ABOVE US ALL
URGH
I JUST IMAGINED SOMETHING BAD
—OR SO I'VE COME TO THINK
What a fraud!
THERE WAS NO NEED TO BECOME THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENT PERSON IN JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS
Helping with the preparations
CRACK!

HE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT ANYWAY—
AM I STILL STUCK IN MY SHELL AFTER ALL?
OR AM I LIKE A HATCHED CHICK THAT FLUTTERS WEAKLY WHEN PARTED FROM THE NEST?
I...

Hmph
URRGH
JUST WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND ME?
I'VE TRIED PRETTY HARD TOO
But he's still way way ahead of me
Flap
HEY, STUCK-IN-THE-SHELL
TWITCH
Flap
Damn it—!
I hate eggs—!
Ugaaah—
EH, IS THAT SO?
BUT TODAY WE'RE HAVING OYAKO-DON*
[*Fish with chicken, egg and rice.]
SORRY
I'M SO LATE!
How could I be so careless
AH
NO, ACTUALLY I LOVE EATING THEM.
What's that, you—
?
Is that so?

This is same given by Jun Ayanokoji as a reply to the sound of his name being called out by Ojou-chan. (Ayanokoji-san is the name of the character Ojou-chan has a crush on.) Ojou-chan misunderstood it as Ojou-san, which literally translates to "Miss Ojou" or "Lady." I've roughly translated it as "Girl" as it fits the context.

Eh-
IT'S REALLY YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
What a coincidence I'm surprised
C'ÉE GARÇON
Hoya
A PART TIME JOB?
HU HU HU
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, DON'T YOU?
HATTORI-SENPAI!?
EH?
Well, never mind.
IS YOUR HOUSE AROUND HERE, TAKAYAMA?
There's a lot of good dishes
Hmm, what should I get what do you recommend?
Uwa, well- that's
I'M STAYING AT A RELATIVE'S HOUSE ...
AND YOU, SENPAI?

I'LL HAVE A CAPPUCCINO.
Even though I stay at the dorm
ME?
THIS IS MY AREA ♡
Actually
YES
Ah!
Thank you very much
OJOU-CHAN
SORRY FOR THE WAIT
IT'S NOT A SKIRT!
You know that's geez
Stop please!!
Click
Let's have a photo (smile)
THE SKIRT SUITS YOU!
As expected. ♡
Oh, really ♡ Huhu
ARE YOU JOUICHIROU-KUN'S SENPAI?
...
YEAH.
Nice to meet you.
Gazon
THANKS ♡
IS HE WORKING HARD?
Oh, what a nice head of milk foam. ♡

AND HE'S NICE AS WELL
TAKE TODAY, EVEN THOUGH HE'S FINISHED HIS SHIFT, HE'S STAYED BEHIND
—AND—
What's she talking about with your senpai?
Probably nothing good I think.
That Yuma
If it's Hattori-kun.
HE REALLY IS CUTE, THAT BOY
Is he like this at school too?
As his senpai (smile)
As his senpai?
AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE WORRIED?
WELL... BECAUSE HE'S MY CUTE KOUHAI, YOU KNOW
Really?
Oh, my
ON TOP OF HAVING A GOOD MEMORY, HE HAS GOOD MANNERS AND LISTENS WELL
HE THINKS FAST, AND IS ALERT
BECAUSE HE SPEAKS ENGLISH SO FLUENTLY, HE'S A GREAT HELP WITH FOREIGN CUSTOMERS
RIGHT!?
adoration~
I'M SORRY, WHAT AM I SAYING TO A CUSTOMER?
What am I doing?
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE LOOKING AFTER HIM
Not at all
ENJOY YOUR CAPPUCCINO.
That's all
Anything else?
HA HA!
HMM

LIAR, YOU'RE ALREADY FINISHED FOR THE DAY, RIGHT?
WHAT IS THIS!? SO SUDDENLY...
I'VE STILL GOT WORK.
I pout~ ♡
I QUITE PROPERLY GOT PERMISSION FROM YOUR MANAGER
He arrived early in the first place
I DON'T MIND BUT,
WELL, SHOULDN'T YOU ACTUALLY ASK HIM?
NO WAY!
permission
ignored
YOU SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY OBEDIENT TO YOUR SENPAI.
That's the way it is (smile)
I don't want to—!
You're so unreasonable!
SO WHY ME!?
SO KEEP ME COMPANY FOR A BIT
I WANT SOME EXTRA HANDS ♡
SENPAI!
HATTORI-SENPAI!
WAIT...
NOBE

AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PART TIME JOB?
EH?
BUT JOUHOKU DOESN'T FORBID PART-TIME WORK, RIGHT?
A lot of people do it
!
You dolt!
It's an unspoken rule
YOU CAN'T WORK UNLESS YOU GET APPROVAL FROM THE TEACHERS FIRST!
AND IT'S ONLY ALLOWED FROM FIFTH YEAR!
MOREOVER, YOU'RE A TRANSFER STUDENT, AND A TROUBLE-MAKER!
DO YOU GET IT, OJOU-CHAN?
Whatever!
OR WHA— TEVER.
BUT THAT CAFE IS REALLY NICE, AND YOU SEEM TO BE WORKING WELL, SO I'LL KEEP QUIET
So!
So you say!
Why is this happening to me again
...WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SOMEPLACE GOOD

SLOWLY
THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY...
WONDERFUL, JUST LIKE THAT!
WONDERFUL, KIMI-SAN, IT'S A NEW RECORD!
You did it!!
YOU WALKED VERY WELL
EVEN THOUGH LAST TIME I VISITED, YOU WERE LYING DOWN MOST OF THE TIME

IT'S A GOOD THING TAKASHI-KUN IS HERE TO HELP.
OH NO, THIS IS THE RESULT OF DAYS OF REHABILI-TATION.
BUT REALLY,
Even though the one who normally takes care of her is me.
IT REALLY IS DIFFERENT WITH TAKASHI AROUND.
She's in such high spirits.
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE NOT WEARING A KIMONO TODAY?
I thought I'd do without my protection for a while.
Oh my!
YOU SEE, I'LL BE DOING SOME CLEANING IN JUST A BIT.
Ho ho ho
?
I was looking forward to it.
I SEE IF SHE STAYS THAT ENERGETIC, SHE'LL PROBABLY BE FINE THIS WINTER.
HOWEVER, APART FROM AROUND OVER THERE, THIS HOUSE IS SO COLD, ISN'T IT?
Thank good-ness.
DOCTOR
Well
WHAT'S KIMI-SAN DOING?
AKIO AND THE NURSE ARE HELPING HER CHANGE.
I helped myself to some tea.

SHE'S REALLY
NOT DOING THAT WELL
I think you must know that...
SHE SEEMED WELL ENOUGH TODAY THOUGH.
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE, DOCTOR
TAKASHI-KUN?
!
SHE WANTS TO APPEAR WELL
LAST TIME WHEN SHE WAS JUST LYING THERE, RUMOURS STARTED TO SPREAD THAT SHE WAS ON HER DEATH-BED
A GREAT NUMBER OF HER RELATIVES GATHERED AROUND TO THIS HOUSE
OH, THAT?
ALL THAT TROUBLE BECAUSE OF HER HUSBAND'S WILL...
such a dirty
IT SEEMS THAT HE DISLIKED ALL THAT IMMENSELY HIMSELF...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP HER SPIRITS UP.
CHEER HER UP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YOU'RE ALL...
PARTICULARLY THAT AKIO-SAN, YOU'RE ALL DOING WELL.
THERE ARE PROBABLY A LOT OF THINGS TO DEAL WITH.
...YES
WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE AGAIN?

I OWE A LOT TO OLD MR HIRAJIMA...
AS LONG AS I CAN DO SOME-THING...
SHE DROPPED IT...?
grab
...
WOW, HELLO! ♡
ADMIRAL DIAS?
How cool!
You're such a beauty when you smile Kimi-san
THIS BUNNY HAS A SAILOR'S NAME?
Really?

DON'T INTERFERE SO MUCH.
IT WOULD BE INTERFERENCE, IF I DID THAT TO HIM
IF HE WERE HERE...
AND KIMI-SAN, WOULD BE HAPPY
BOTH HE
I'M SURE EVEN NOW, HE'S MANAGING FINE.
HE DOESN'T NEED ME TO WORRY ABOUT AFFAIRS
EVERYTHING WILL GO SMOOTHLY,
JUST LIKE ALWAYS,
WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
...
RUSTLE..

IF I'M NOT, IT'S SO TROUBLE-SOME!
I...
YOU CAN'T BE THAT NARROW-MINDED ABOUT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!
I HAVE TO BE.
I SHOULD BE.

What have I done...
I'VE GOT ANOTHER BOOKING AT THE SAME TIME
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET THEM COME AT THE SAME TIME?
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
YOU KNOW...
Geh!
THIS IS BAD
OH NO! TOMORROW THAT ANNOYING GUY'S COMING AROUND FOR A VISIT
WHO?
Oh! that could be good... or
EH?
THAT'S RIGHT, WE COULD DO THAT
Yeah
rustle
TAKA-SHI?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
!
rustle
HE...
Hmf
rattle

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
Ouch
I...
rustle
Waah!
WHAT'S WRONG...
OH?
HERE
WELL, I'M NOT REALLY ANGRY
Akiyuki?
I TOLD YOU TO RING THE DOORBELL OR TO LET SOMEONE KNOW, DIDN'T I?
YOU AGAIN?
YOU CAME TO GET YOUR BALL RIGHT?
murmur
SO IT WAS A KID
Yes
THE BRAT OF THE NEIGH-BOUR-HOOD.
AS USUAL, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH
WHEN I SAW YOUR EXPRESSION CHANGE AND THEN YOU TOOK OFF LIKE THAT, I THOUGHT SOME-THING BAD HAD HAPPENED
JUST LEAVE THOSE SNEAKS NOSING AROUND BE

LET GO!!
AKIO...
WHAT!?
SO-
SORRY...
YOUR HAIR IT'S ALL MESSED UP.
GO FIX IT
WHAT WAS THAT, SO SUDDENLY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
OW OW OW OW!
!?
It hurts you know!
!!
rustle
blush
And here speaks the one whose hair is messy all year round!
YOU'VE PISSED ME OFF! NO DINNER FOR YOU!
WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME THAT-
I'VE BEEN WORKING SINCE THE MORNING!
WHAT!? YOU KNOW, YOU-
Bull's eye

FOR ONE MOMENT
ISN'T IT MY TURN TO COOK TONIGHT?
THERE'S NO NEED, NAKA-SAN'S COMING OVER TONIGHT!

FOR ONE MOMENT...
I THOUGHT THAT HE HAD REALLY COME HERE.
LIKE HE WOULD JUST POKE HIS HEAD UP FROM OUT OF THE BUSHES...
Hey
SORRY, I ENDED UP COMING.
HOW'S KIMI-SAN?
AKIO LOOKED LIKE HIM...?
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT THEY RESEMBLE EACH OTHER
RIDICULOUS.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN
HE PULLED AWAY FROM ME.
THE ONE WHO MADE HIM DO SO WAS NONE OTHER THAN ME.
NOW THAT THINGS HAVE COME TO THIS, WHY DO I STILL HOPE HE'LL APPEAR?
THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
I...
HOPE...?
STOP FUCKING AROUND!
THUD

IS THAT SO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S NOT REALLY SUCH A MYSTERIOUS THING.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKE HIM.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THE "MISSING THING" THAT YOU SEARCHED SO DESPERATELY FOR IN THE LIBRARY.
THEN, WHAT'S THIS?
YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE EXCUSES TO ME, DO YOU?
BECAUSE I KNOW ALL ABOUT THESE LAST FOUR YEARS.
YOU CAN'T LET GO. YOU COULDN'T EVEN THROW THIS AWAY.
NO...
THAT'S...
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR "DECISION".
BUT IT'S USELESS!
ABOUT "THAT DAY", AND WHY YOU'RE HERE AT THIS HOUSE.
YOU CAN'T DESTROY "OUR" FEELINGS,
AND YOU CAN'T CONTROL THEM EITHER.

AFTER ALL, IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD...
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BEST OF ALL.
SHUT UP!!
GET LOST!!
THAT CUNNING RELIC FROM THE PAST...
IS STILL COMING OUT...?
Crumple
SLAM!

SENPAI...
ISN'T THIS AREA JUST ORDINARY HOUSING?
Hu Hu ♡
WE'RE HERE
Eh?
Here!?
That's amazing, Sis!
IT'S KNOWN AS THE CROSS CLUB
IT WAS ONCE THE RESIDENCE OF THE ARCHITECT ENDOU, AND HAS BEEN OPENED AS AN EVENT SPACE.
ENDOU?
WHERE HAVE I HEARD
11
Correct
Yeah!!
HE'S THE ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED JOUHOKU!
At the beginning of the Showa era.
NORMALLY, THERE ARE WEDDING RECEPTIONS, OR MINI-CONCERTS HELD HERE
BUT ONCE A YEAR, AS A FAVOUR FROM THE OWNER, IT'S OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM JOUHOKU!
On a cheaper student rate
...AND THE UNIVERSITY DIVISION HAS AN END-OF-YEAR PARTY HERE
I didn't know...
Really? It's within you know?
STUDENTS FROM THE UPPER LEVELS OF BOTH THE MALE AND FEMALE DIVISIONS PARTICIPATE, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE JUST ANYONE CAN
C'MON, LET'S GO
IN THAT CASE, WHY ME...?
Hey~
How unusual.
HATTORI! AREN'T YOU LATE!
I HAD SOMETHING TO DO.
Hun?
YOU'RE NOT WITH SAKURA!?

Amazing guy
Uwa, they're having a barbeque
The trees are lit up, pretty~
THIS WAY
So cute!
LEAVE YOUR COAT ON WE'RE GOING OUT TO THE GARDEN
A SORT OF AMAZING GUY'S COME
AMAZING?
...AH! AMAZING!! THERE'S A POOL IN THE GARDEN!
How unexpected~
At last!
OH WOW!
IF IT ISN'T ORANGE-KUN! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
Who's that?
ORANGE-KUN?
...I'M NOT WEARING ANYTHING ORANGE TODAY!!
And what's that on your head?
Argh we met again
Eh!?
TAKAYAMA, YOU ALREADY KNOW HIM?
Since when...?
Yumi loves Kota-kun
OH♡ TAKAYAMA-KUN, YOU DON'T NEED A CRUTCH ANYMORE! THAT'S GREAT!
EVEN MAKI-SAN'S WEARING EARS!?
Kya ha ha
Ah
Thank you very much
They suit you!
Why~?
WOLVES WITH C IT EARS?
Well, you know!
DO YOU WANT A PAIR TOO?
We got them from some fans. They'd suit you too. (laugh)
(smile)
KATTORI, IS THIS WHO YOU WANTED TO BRING?
It ended up that way
WELL, EVEN SO THAT'S FINE...
Here's some plum wine?
Oooh!! Thanks!

Okay!
IT'S A PITY, BUT TASUKU'S NOT HERE SO THIS GUY CAN FILL IN INSTEAD
HE SPEAKS ENGLISH LIKE A NATIVE SO LEAVE IT TO HIM.
He's so far saving! Isn't that work hard, okay
EH!?
WHAT?
Yeah~
EVERYDAY WE'VE BEEN SANDWICHED BETWEEN CONCERTS AND WORK AT THE STUDIO
But you made an appearance to the end
Shut up Maki, it's more fresh!
For making the album
Last minute
Yes yes
ALTHOUGH WE ASKED FOR IT AT THE STUDIO
DON'T YOU HAVE WORK?
HOW DID THE JUNK WOLVES MANAGE TO COME AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR?
Um~
SENPAI WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Oh
THAT'S RIGHT-
YABE, HERE!
THIS GUY CAN ENTERTAIN THE GUESTS
TASUKU HAS A COLD? OH NO, WHAT A PITY
Geh!
39°C?
Oh my
fur on the inside
leather
Hey hey
YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ALL THE LADIES ABOUT JKV?W!
BUT I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TELL THEM ANYTHING
Whaat!?
Aren't you our mascot?
He was abroad for four years
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A RETURNEE ISN'T IT?
Really!
WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY FORGET EVERYTHING IN TWO MONTHS?
IS THAT SO?
YEAH I DID
Then isn't he amazing
Yaooo
AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU, WHAT NERVE!
BUT I NEVER ASKED YOU TO DO ANYTHING~
Since when is
Come see me later~
BUT COME TO MENTION IT,
WHY IS HE SO FLUENT IN ENGLISH?
HE'S OVER THERE WITH THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS WHAT NERVE
Yeah
HE'S REALLY ACTING LIKE A PROPER WAITER WITH THE EARS ON!
Amazing!
Our cat cafe's (fraud)
Wha ha ha, that's great!
What's more, with girls!

HEY, ARE YOU TAKAYAMA-KUN?
I SAW YOUR MATCH WITH YANAGI HIGH
EH?
Oh soccer
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU PLAY RECENTLY...
You were great! You bumped into the goal post? Are you alright?
So energetic-
YEAH, I HURT MY LEG A BIT...
OH MY
Because I go watch the practice sessions every Sunday!
Come back quickly
Is it already new?
I'D HEARD THAT JOUHOKU WAS WIDELY CONNECTED, AND IT'S TRUE
EVEN THOUGH I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR FOUR MONTHS...
The ladies from the girls division of sekou!
I WAS PICKED UP BY A SENPAI AND TAKEN HERE BUT I GUESS IT'S OKAY FOR A CHANGE
AFTER ALL EVEN IF I GO HOME, I'M ALL ALONE...
Takayama was it?
Hey, transfer student!
YOUR SCHOOL REPORT WAS QUITE INTERESTING
I saw the presentation
Whoa it's an very new student
BEING WITH PEOPLE IS FUN
TAKAYAMA!
IT TAKES AWAY THE LONELINESS

HE'S COMING——?

OOOH~ THAT GUY?
whisper whisper
That's surprising...
Yeah, that guy.
whisper whisper
THE ONE WHO LITERALLY CAME RUSHING OVER LAST TIME?
WHAT?
ISN'T HE THE GUY WHO BEAT KOBA-CHAN UP JUST BEFORE THE CONCERT?

WAIT A MINUTE,

I CAN'T SEE HIM YET———

You're our mascot aren't you? Put on your ears and work!
To somewhere around here
KIND OF HAVE TO GO
WHAT——? YOU CAN'T GO HOME YET!
The party's just getting started——
Ah~~
NO, UM... ICE...
YEAH, I'M GOING TO BUY SOME ICE!
I'LL BE BACK!
See you.
HEY, WAIT!?
BUT WE JUST BOUGHT A LOT OF ICE...
EH?
UM I
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
RUNNING WAY——?
wobble
!
TUMBLE
thud
NOWAA!
I was still using a crutch just a while ago
...BUT, COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I RAN FULL PELT...
...I FELL...
JUST ON THE ROAD...
Gyaa how embarrassing~
How many years has it been since I've done this?

THE NIGHT SKY'S SO PRETTY.
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I KIND OF WANT A SMOKE...
IT'S NOT LIKE I GO REGULARLY
And everyone's pretty drunk anyway
I WONDER IF THE PARTY'S OKAY WITHOUT ME?
...THEY SHOULD BE OKAY.
WHAT AM I DOING——?
EVEN SO...
EVEN IF YOU SENT HIM A MESSAGE IT'S NOT LIKE YOU KNOW WHETHER HE'LL COME OR NOT.
"HE'S COMING" YOU SAY?
REALLY..
MY GOOD MOOD JUST SUDDENLY VANISHED,
AND I LITERALLY RAN AWAY.
WHY?
BECAUSE ALL OF MY CONFIDENCE JUST DRAINED AWAY.
SO THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY?
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T BEAR TO STAY WHERE AZUMA IS
WHY?
BECAUSE I CAN'T BE HIS EQUAL
BECAUSE I'M INFERIOR TO HIM...

DID AZUMA SAY THAT?
IT'S ME WHO THINKS THIS WAY. IT'S WHAT I FEEL.
THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO CHANGE MYSELF
DID THAT GO WELL?
...IF I WANT TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY, I THINK THE ONLY WAY IS TO GO TO A MOUNTAIN TEMPLE OR FIND A BATTLE FIELD!
PEOPLE CAN'T CHANGE THAT EASILY.
!
SO THEN, FOR JUST HOW LONG,
WILL YOU BE UNABLE TO SEE ME?
WELL, THAT'S FINE TOO, YOU KNOW. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS.
IT'S BETTER FOR ME THAT WAY TOO ...
EVEN IF I'M NOT THERE, YOU CAN STILL ENJOY YOURSELF, CAN'T YOU?
WAIT!
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
EVEN IF OTHER PEOPLE ARE THERE, AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT, IT'S MEANINGLESS!
I REALLY DO WANT TO BE WITH YOU SOMEDAY!
I WANTED TO SEE YOU, THAT'S WHY I CAME TO JOUHOKU!
YOU'RE SO INCONSISTENT.
...WHY DO YOU GO THAT FAR?

"WHY" YOU ASK?
THAT'S..
I——
JOUICHI-ROU
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?? THANK GOD...
BY THE TIME I HEARD YOUR SCHOOL HAD BEEN ATTACKED...
DAD...
DOUG'S BEEN...
I...
JOUICHI-ROU?
LISTEN? THE ONE WHO DIED WASN'T TAKASHI-KUN
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
SHALL WE GO BACK TO JAPAN?
I'LL GO WITH YOU ANYWHERE YOU WANT
!
WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
SO-
GO BACK
NO
NO!
THE WAY I AM NOW, I CAN'T SEE TAKASHI
I..
IT'S ALRIGHT. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPEAK NORMALLY!
TAKE THINGS EASY JOUICHIROU
Ch
"I HAVE MY OWN IDENTITY, AND DECIDE WITH MY OWN FREE WILL AND WILL PURSUE MY OWN SELF-REALIZATION."
YES ♡
...YOU'VE REALLY BECOME USED TO SAYING THESE KINDS OF WORDS, HAVEN'T YOU?
ENGLISH
fluently
You don't have to come here anymore
Doctor, lend me another book
Whoa!
YOU CAN TRANSFER BACK TO THE SAME YEAR LEVEL
As expected from the school president!
Really? Great!!
Alright!
Success!

THAT'S RIGHT
I WANTED TO SEE YOU ALL THIS TIME
THERE'S NOTHING IN JAPAN THAT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT SHOOTING INCIDENT. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF.
REALLY?
AND THE REAL TAKASHI'S IN JAPAN
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE IN DECEMBER, I GUESS. TAKE CARE.
YOU TOO, DAD
I'M FINE ALREADY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY AT ALL!
NARITA
SKINSHIP
rumple
YOU'VE ACTUALLY WORKED PRETTY HARD!!
Good boy
IT'LL BE THE BEST IF I'M SENT OFF TO SCHOOL WITH HIM AGAIN
or whatever
HUMANS REALLY DON'T CHANGE THAT EASILY
EVEN THOUGH I WENT TO AMERICA WITH MY DAD BY MY OWN WILL
AREN'T I DOING THE SAME THING NOW?
RATHER THAN RUNNING AWAY, I SHOULD GO BACK TO THE START...
EVEN THOUGH I'M SO CLOSE TO YOU I'VE ONLY BEEN TRYING TO RUN AWAY, HAVEN'T I?
CAN'T BEAR IT? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, YOU IDIOT.
JUST WHAT DID YOU COME BACK FOR!?

GO BACK
AGAIN, TO
THE VERY
BEGINNING

WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING? HOW'S THAT A PICTURE OF A BIRD?
GO SPARROW-HAWK!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE COME HERE.
crunch...
fwoosh
I'M QUITE RELUCTANT TO DO SOMETHING SO RITUALISTIC BU
IF I DON'T DO THIS AT LEAST THAT UNSATISFIED LINGERING ATTACHMENT
WILL STILL REMAIN WITHIN ME
flare

I'D INTENDED JUST TO LEAVE IT THERE, IF HE NEVER CAME BACK...
WITH THIS, THE PAST IS SETTLED
THIS COPY
TAKAYAMA DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT STILL EXISTS
I HAD NO WISH TO LET HIM KNOW I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF HE REMEMBERS IT OR NOT.
ORIGINALLY, BACK WHEN WE WERE KIDS, I COULDN'T BEAR TO THROW IT AWAY, SO I STUFFED IT INTO AN OLD BOOK IN THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES
"DEMIAN."
A BOOK THAT MY REAL FATHER HAD OWNED... JUST ONE PAPERBACK FROM HIS COLLECTION
AT THAT TIME, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED...
I ALWAYS CARRIED IT IN MY BAG. SO——
AND IN THOSE DAYS I WAS STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND MY FATHER.
BUT SINCE THERE WERE SIGNS THAT IT HAD BEEN READ OVER UNUSUALLY OFTEN.

BURN INTO ASH WITHOUT ANYONE EVER KNOWING
BACK THEN, MY NAME WAS "NADAKA TAKASHI".
IF IT'S SUCH AN IMPORTANT MEMORY TO YOU, YOU KEEP IT.
"AZUMA" HAS NO NEED FOR IT.

WHISTLING? AT THIS TIME...?
!!
IT CAN'T BE
WHO?
THERE ARE STILL SO MANY THINGS I HAVE TO DO.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE MESSING AROUND SPOUTING SUCH NONSENSE...

Grow'art finished

WHY?
NO WAY
...ARE YOU FOR REAL?
...
AZUMA...!?
...
EH?

...IS THIS A CURSE?
TAKA-YAMA...
WHY ARE YOU-
.....

...AZUMA
!?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A LIE OR THE REAL ONE, JUST LISTEN FOR A BIT.
I'M... NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
FROM YOU OR
FROM WHATEVER HAPPENS
ABSOLUTELY WON'T RUN AWAY!!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU BELITTLE ME OR MAKE ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT
BECAUSE I'VE DECIDED...!

YOU
I LIKE YOU.
IT SEEMS THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THAT WON'T CHANGE.
SOMEONE...
I SEE! SORRY.
WHY...
DOES HE ALWAYS PHRASE THINGS SO HARSHLY
HE ALWAYS REBUTS WHAT I SAY SO ABRUPTLY
...BUT IT'S FINE
JUST... LET ME SAY THIS
..WHAT KIND OF PROCLAMATION IS IT THIS TIME?
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AT ALL.

PLEASE TELL ME
!
IF THERE'S A WAY TO BREAK FREE OF THESE ARMS
AWAY FROM THIS REALITY THAT SO COMPLETELY BETRAYS MY FEELINGS
A WAY NOT TO BE ENGULFED ANY FURTHER THAN I ALREADY AM

Demian Syndrome

Demian Syndrome

MAMIYA OKI'S IDLE TALK

■ This time I'm speaking to everyone on the last page. The third volume has finally been released. But...it's always at a turtle's pace. I'm really sorry about that.

■ Oki's station [S.S Return Forces]'s (the URL is on the cover) "Netabare BB" in "Open Space" has all kinds of reader opinions, and reading back on the past messages, I can't help but recall the kinds of impressions people have had (:D). This time from the very beginning of volume #2, there have been a lot of comments like "I'm so surprised that DS would develop like this!" There was also a time where there was talk of whether 'Demian Syndrome" would be BL or not (Personally, I think it's okay to think of it as you like ♥.) The next volume will be #4, but will people have the same impressions again. I wonder~ or will there be that sort of development... Opinions? (^^) But out of those who gave me their impressions, the majority said that no matter what developments there are, "DS is DS" after all. I'm very grateful. Thinking that way is quite correct.

■ Well then, just what kind of story is Demian Syndrome? Simply put, this story is about former good friends Azuma and Takayama trying to return to the way they were... Or maybe a story about how their relationship becomes one of "mutual love". I think the trust between good friends is also a splendid type of mutual love. At any rate, whether there's other "options" to this relationship depends on them...

■ Before publishing this volume, I've been doing a lot of revisions. If I could hear the impressions of readers through BBS, emails, or letters, I would be very happy. There's also the paper Comic Fans club, so for those of you interested, please do inquire. Well, that's it until we meet next volume or in Chara magazine! Please continue to support and guide me along.

(2004/Jan) Oki Mamiya

p.s. / In the second volume, their year of birth was changed from 1985 to 1986.